Los Angeles Times

$3.66 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2023 TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 latimes.com

6 FATALLY SHOT IN TULARE COUNTY; 2 SOUGHT

Sheriff suspects drug cartel of massacre at a property that officials had raided last week.

By Harriet Ryan, Jessica Garrison, Paige St. John and Ruben Vives

GOSHEN, Calif. — Six people, including a 6-month-old baby, her teenage mother and an elderly woman, were killed Monday in a Central Valley farming community in what the local sheriff said was probably a targeted attack by a drug cartel.

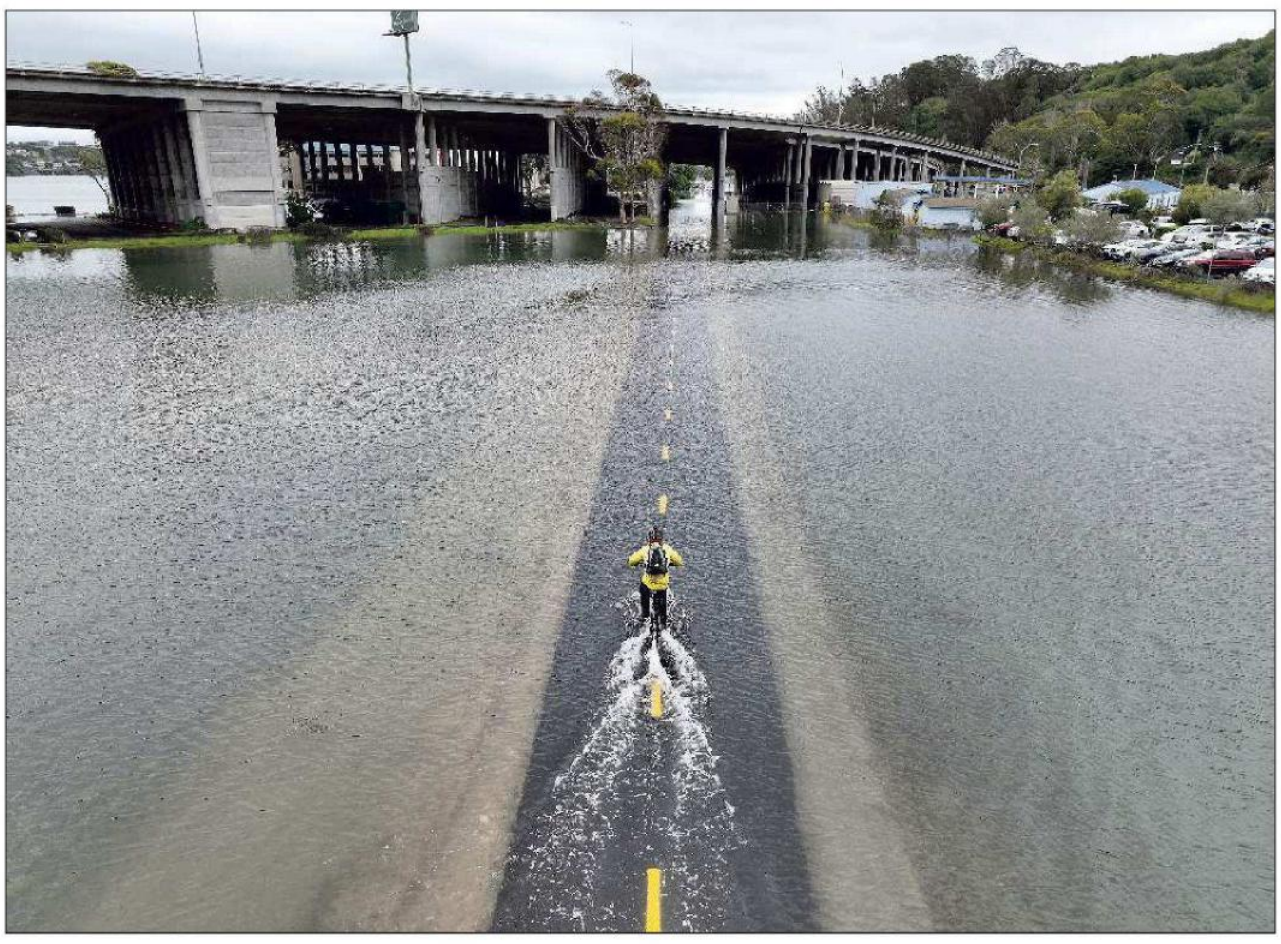
The massacre occurred around 3:30 a.m. in and around a residence in the Tulare County town of Goshen, near Visalia. Authorities said they were searching for two suspects and that the killings may have been related to a search warrant carried out last week at the property that resulted in one arrest and the seizure of guns, marijuana and methamphetamine.

"I think it's specifically connected to the cartel," Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux told The Times without specifying a particular criminal organization. "The level of violence ... this was not your run-of-the-mill, low-end gang member."

Authorities did not release the names or ages of all the victims but said it appeared that some were from the same family.

Several were shot in the head, including the baby, Boudreaux said. A sheriff's deputy responding to re-

[See **Tulare County,** A7]



Josh Edelson AFP/Getty Images

A CYCLIST on a flooded path in Mill Valley during a king tide in 2022. Many areas along San Francisco Bay face increasing flood risks, says a study by a team of regulators, building officials and flood control agencies.

The silent threat from below

As storms and swells drench the state, new Bay Area maps reveal a hidden flood risk: rising groundwater.

By Rosanna Xia

Amid dramatic ocean swells and drenching atmospheric rivers, a new report lays bare a hidden aspect of sea level rise that has been exacerbating flooding in the Bay Area.

The report, which was released Tuesday, maps areas that could flood from groundwater hovering just a few feet or even inches below ground. This layer of water gets pushed upward as denser water from the ocean moves inland from rising tides. On its way up, even before the water breaks the surface, it can seep into the cracks of basements, infiltrate plumbing, or, even more insidiously, re-mobilize toxic chemicals buried underground.

Communities that consider themselves "safe" from sea level rise might need to think otherwise, said Kris May, a lead author of the report and founder of Pathways Climate Institute, a research-based consulting firm in San Francisco that helps cities adapt to climate change.

"I started working on sea level rise, then I went into extreme precipitation, and then groundwater ... but it's all connected," May said. She noted that hot spots where the soil is already saturated with rising groundwater were some of the first to flood when a recent series of atmospheric rivers dumped record rainfall onto California: "These huge storms really highlight the magnitude of the risk."

The new findings are the result of an unprecedented joint effort by May, the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), UC Berkeley and a wide-ranging team of regulators, building officials and flood-control agencies to identify where the groundwater along the bay shoreline is close to, or already breaking, the surface. A set of searchable maps, available online to the public, zooms in on Alameda, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties — the first of

[See **Maps,** A10]

COLUMN ONE

A blessing and a curse: Storms in California divine yet destructive

From prayers for rain to torrential floods, life-giving water has shaped spiritual beliefs. But to worship it is to fear it.

By Deborah Netburn

In a state crippled by drought, how are we to make sense of the destructive storms that have led our governor to proclaim a state of emergency, even as they fill our reservoirs and replenish our fields?

Here at last is the life-giving water we've yearned for: nourishing, regenerative, cleansing and essential, especially in the wake of the state's driest three-year period on record. And yet, these desperately needed rains have been responsible for mudslides, flooding, power outages and, most tragically, the loss of at least 20 lives.

It may feel like California is being cursed by the gods, but in fact humanity's relationship with rain has always been paradoxical. Rain has the ability to create, and to destroy. And so it becomes a matter of faith: We pray for it, even as we fear it.

"In Judaism there is the concept of beneficial rain," said Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback, senior rabbi at Stephen Wise Temple in Bel-Air. "We pray for rain in its proper amount, and at the right time."

Judaism emerged in the Middle East in a climate much like Southern California's. Rains came in the winter; the summers were long and dry. Today, Jewish people around the

[See **Rain,** A10]

San Francisco's high housing voucher hurdles

Some pricey spots have succeeded with federal funds, but City by the Bay has stumbled

By Anumita Kaur

SAN FRANCISCO — Reyna De La Cruz had looked at 15 apartments, at least.

About half of the landlords rejected her. The other half never responded at all.

De La Cruz and three of her kids were living in a camper parked on a corner in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood. They'd been there since De La Cruz was laid off from her job at Wingstop in 2020. But their little family needed a real home. De La Cruz kept a wish list: enough bedrooms and bathrooms for her and her kids, a kitchen big enough to cook in regularly and, if she was lucky, a yard.

In May, the San Francisco Housing Authority had issued De La Cruz an emergency housing voucher. These vouchers, part of a $1.1-billion Biden administration effort to rapidly house Americans during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, are supposed to be a golden ticket: a promise that the federal government will pay most of a recipient's rent for years.

Paul Kuroda For The Times

REYNA DE LA CRUZ speaks to a Catholic Charities outreach worker from the camper where she lived with three of her children in San Francisco in September.

But four months after receiving the voucher, De La Cruz and her family were still homeless. The hurdles to finding a home felt insurmountable: She spoke Spanish, not English; few units were available, and if they were, they were too expensive; and landlords didn't want to accept a voucher, or house someone who was homeless.

Similar problems plague other cities' efforts to use the new vouchers.

A year and a half after they were handed out, just 56% of the new vouchers have been used across the country. In California, which has one of the worst housing

[See **Unhoused,** A7]

Slides, sinkholes and other hazards

Storms may be waning, but officials advise vigilance as repairs get underway. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

When a tree hits a car, who pays?

The answer will vary depending on circumstances and your insurance policy. **BUSINESS, A6**

LAPD widens its investigation into City Council audio leak

Detectives believe the recording could be a felony violation of eavesdropping law.

By Richard Winton and Matt Hamilton

Information obtained by Los Angeles police from search warrants served on Twitter and Reddit has led detectives to additional investigative avenues as they work to uncover who recorded a meeting involving three L.A. City Council members and a labor leader that was filled with racist and offensive comments, according to court documents and sources.

The LAPD's Major Crimes Division focused at first on the identity and Internet Protocol addresses behind a Reddit account that posted the audio last year and a Twitter account that tipped off reporters and others to the existence of the recordings, according to a search warrant issued in October and obtained by The Times.

The warrant, according to law enforcement sources familiar with the investigation, is one of as many as half a dozen filed by detectives tasked with unmasking who is behind the recordings that plunged City Hall into protests over the racist remarks and provided a window into the backroom machinations of the city's redistricting process.

The initial warrant served on Twitter led inves-

[See **Recording,** A5]

Daughter of MLK speaks

The Rev. Bernice King chides those who cite the civil rights leader's words but refuse to live by them. **NATION, A4**

Traffic deaths in L.A. surpass 300

According to the LAPD, 312 people were killed in collisions on city streets in 2022, a 20-year high. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Clouds, sun; cool.
L.A Basin: 58/42. **B6**

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Distributors Corp. of America/Getty Images

GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA DIES

Actor was a symbol of Italy as they both emerged from the shadows of World War II. **CALENDAR, E1**

VISIT…

Former legislator fatally shot in her Kabul home

Allies pay tribute to parliamentarian who stayed in capital after Afghan government collapsed in 2021.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Tributes poured in Monday for a former Afghan lawmaker who was shot and killed by gunmen in her home in the capital of Kabul the previous day. Mursal Nabizada was among the few female parliamentarians who stayed in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in August 2021.

The slaying was the first time a lawmaker from the previous administration was killed in the city since the takeover.

Police say one of Nabizada's bodyguards was also killed in the attack Sunday. Nabizada died on the first floor of her home, which she used as her office.

Karen Decker, the U.S. chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan, tweeted: "Hold the perpetrators accountable!"

"Angered, heartbroken by murder of Mursal Nabizada — a tragic loss. I offer Mursal's family my condolences and hope to see them receive justice for this senseless act," Decker also said in her tweet.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres is "shocked" by the killings of Nabizada and a bodyguard and "calls for a prompt, thorough, and transparent investigation and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice," U.N. associate spokesperson Stephanie Tremblay said.

Nabizada's brother was wounded in the attack, according to Khalid Zadran, spokesman for the Kabul police chief in the Taliban administration. A police investigation was underway, he added.

Hannah Neumann, a member of the European Parliament, also tweeted her condolences. "I am sad and angry and want the world to know! She was killed in darkness, but the Taliban build their system of Gender Apartheid in full daylight," Neumann said.

Earlier, local police chief Hamidullah Khalid said another security guard had fled the scene with money and jewelry. He did not answer questions about possible motives.

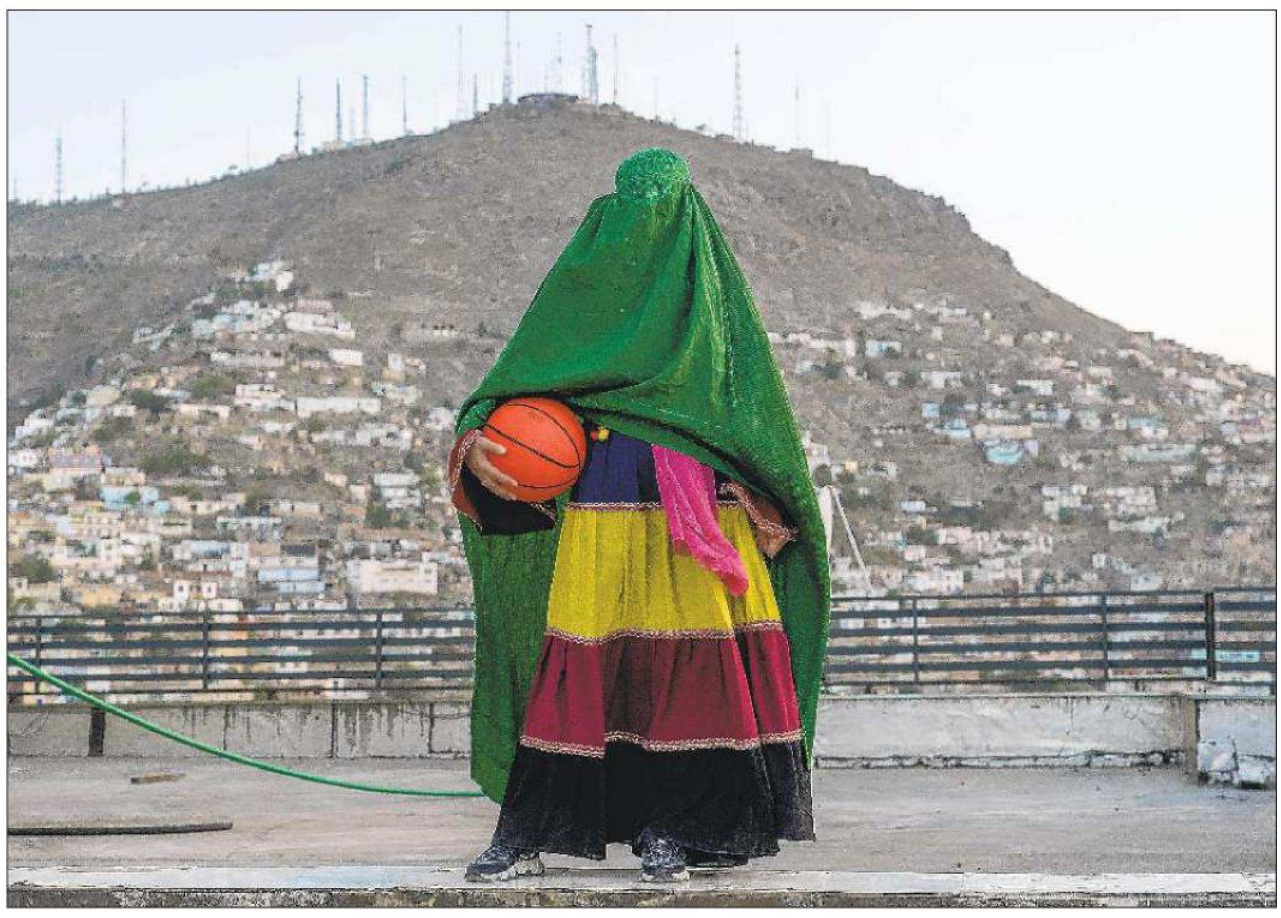
Abdullah Abdullah, a top official in Afghanistan's former Western-backed government, said he was saddened by Nabizada's death and hoped the perpetrators would be punished. He described her as a "representative and servant of the people."

Nabizada was elected in 2019 to represent Kabul and stayed in office until the Taliban takeover. She was originally from eastern Nangarhar province. She also worked at a private nongovernmental group, the Institute for Human Resources Development and Research.

After its takeover, the Taliban initially said it would not impose the same harsh rules over society as it did during its first rule of Afghanistan in the late 1990s. But it has progressively imposed more restrictions, particularly on women. It has banned women and girls from schooling beyond the sixth grade, barred them from most jobs and demanded they cover their faces when outside.

WAKIL KOHSAR AFP/Getty Images

A PHOTO of Mursal Nabizada is shown on a cellphone. She was killed in an attack on her home.



Photographs by EBRAHIM NOROOZI Associated Press

AN AFGHAN basketball player conceals her identity under a burqa in Kabul. The Taliban's ban on women playing sports has been crushing for some. "Since the Taliban came, I feel like I'm dead," one athlete said.

For female Afghan athletes, life without sports is grim

Women and girls say they face Taliban intimidation, with calls or visits warning them not to play.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

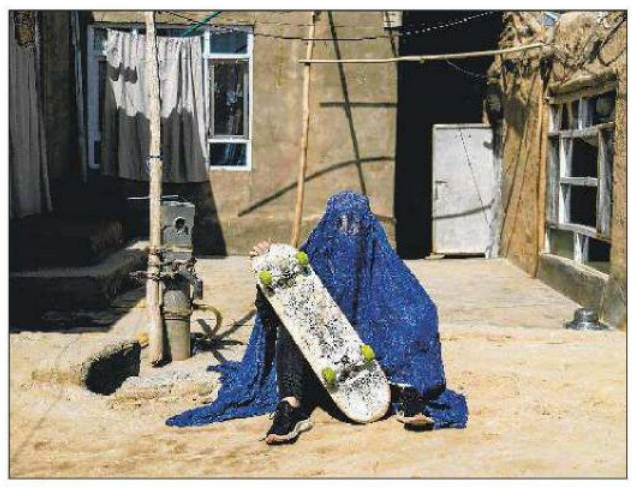
KABUL — Noura's determination to play sports was so great that she defied her family's opposition for years. Beatings from her mother and jeers from her neighbors never kept her from the sports she loved.

But the 20-year-old Afghan woman could not defy her country's Taliban rulers. They have not just banned all sports for women and girls, they have actively intimidated and harassed those who once played, often scaring them from even practicing in private, Noura and other women say.

Noura has been left shattered. "I'm not the same person anymore," she said. "Since the Taliban came, I feel like I'm dead."

A number of girls and women who once played a variety of sports said they have been intimidated by the Taliban with visits and phone calls warning them not to engage in their sports. The women and girls spoke on condition of anonymity for fear they will face further threats.

They posed for an Associated Press photographer for portraits with the equipment of the sports they loved. They hid their identities with burqas, the all-encompassing robes and hood that completely cover the face, leaving only a small mesh panel to see through. They didn't normally wear the burqa, but they said they sometimes do now when they go outside and want to remain anonymous and avoid harassment.



A SKATER holds her board in Kabul. Taliban threats have kept women from even practicing in private.

The ban on sports is part of the Taliban's escalating campaign of restrictions that have shut down life for girls and women.

Since its takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban has barred girls from attending middle and high school. Last month, it ordered all women thrown out of universities as well.

The Taliban requires women to cover their hair and faces in public and prohibits them from going to parks or gyms. It has severely limited women's ability to work outside the home and most recently forbade nongovernmental organizations from employing women, a step that could cripple the vital flow of aid.

Even before the Taliban, women's sports were opposed by many in Afghanistan's deeply conservative society, seen as a violation of women's modesty and of their role in society. Still, the previous, internationally backed government had programs encouraging women's sports and school clubs, leagues and national teams for women in many sports.

A 20-year-old mixed martial artist recalled how in August 2021, she was competing in a local women's tournament at a Kabul sports hall. Word spread through the audience and participants that the advancing Taliban was on the city's outskirts. All the women and girls fled the hall. It was the last competition the young athlete played in.

Months later, she said she tried to give private lessons for girls. But Taliban fighters raided the gym where they were practicing and arrested them all. In detention, the girls were humiliated and mocked, she said. After mediation by elders, they were released after promising not to practice sports anymore.

She still practices at home and sometimes teaches her close friends.

"Life has become very difficult for me, but I am a fighter, so I will continue to live and fight," she said.

A spokesman of the Taliban's Sports Organization and National Olympic Committee said authorities were looking for a way to restart sports for women by building separate sports venues. But he gave no time frame and said funds were needed to do so. Taliban authorities have repeatedly made similar promises to allow girls from the seventh grade and up to return to school but still have not done so.

Noura faced resistance her whole life as she tried to play sports.

Raised in a poor Kabul district by parents who had migrated from the provinces, Noura started out playing soccer alongside boys in the street. When she was 9, a coach spotted her and, at his encouragement, she joined a girls' youth team.

She kept it a secret from everyone but her father, but her cover was blown by her own talent. At 13, she was named the best girl soccer player in her age group, and her photo and name were broadcast on television.

"All over the world, when a girl becomes famous and her picture is shown on TV, it's a good day for her and she's at the peak of happiness," she said. "For me, that day was very bitter and the beginning of worse days."

Furious, her mother beat her, shouting that she was not allowed to play soccer. She kept playing in secret but was exposed again when her team won a national championship and her photo was in the news. Again, her mother beat her.

Still, she sneaked off to the award ceremony. She broke down in tears onstage as the audience cheered. "Only I knew I was crying because of loneliness and the hard life I had," she said.

When her mother found out, she set fire to her soccer uniform and shoes.

Noura gave up soccer, but then turned to boxing. Her mother eventually relented, realizing she couldn't keep her from sports, she said.

The day the Taliban entered Kabul, she said, her coach called her mother and said Noura should go to the airport to be taken out of the country. Noura said her mother didn't deliver the message because she didn't want her to leave. When she learned of the message — too late to escape — Noura said she cut her wrists and had to be taken to a hospital.

"The world had become dark for me," she said.

Three months later, someone who identified himself as a member of the Taliban called the family and threatened her. "They were saying, why did you play sports? Sports are forbidden," she recalled.

Terrified, she left Kabul, disguising herself in her burqa to travel to her family's hometown. Eventually, she returned but remains in fear.

"Even if my life was difficult, I used to have confidence in myself and knew that, with effort, I could do what I wanted," she said. "Now I don't have much hope anymore."

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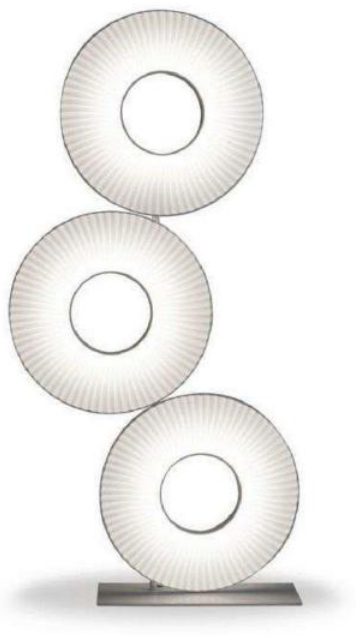
From January 14 to 29



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FOR THE RECORD

Saudi giga-projects: In the Jan. 15 Section A, an article about Saudi Arabia's building boom described John Peronto as a Milwaukee-based principal of the structural engineering firm Thornton Tomasetti. He is based in Chicago.

Civilian toll in Russian strike rises to 40

Search continues in rubble of Ukrainian apartment building as Moscow appears to be girding for a long war.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian emergency crews on Monday sifted through what was left of a Dnipro apartment building destroyed by a Russian missile, placing bodies from one of the war's deadliest single attacks in months in black bags and gingerly carrying them across steep piles of rubble.

Authorities said the death toll from Saturday's strike rose to 40 and that 30 people remained missing Monday. Tall cranes swung across the jagged gaps in a row of residential towers, the engines growling as residents of one of Ukraine's largest cities watched largely in silence under a gray sky.

About 1,700 people lived in the multistory building, and search and rescue crews have worked nonstop since the missile strike to find victims and survivors in the wreckage. The regional administration said 39 people have been rescued and at least 75 were wounded.

The reported death toll put it among the deadliest attacks on Ukrainian civilians since before summer, according to the Associated Press-Frontline War Crimes Watch project. Residents said the apartment tower did not house any military facilities.

Oleksander Anyskevych said he was in his apartment when the missile struck.

"Boom — and that's it. We saw that we were alive and that's all," Anyskevych said Monday as he went to the site to see his wrecked apartment.

He said he knew people who died under the rubble. One of his son's classmates lost her parents.

Dnipro residents took flowers, candles and toys to the ruins.

"All of us could be in that place," local resident Iryna Skrypnyk said.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, called the strike and others like it "inhumane aggression" because it directly targeted civilians. "There will be no impunity for these crimes," he said in a tweet Sunday.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres strongly condemned the Dnipro strike, saying "attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure violate international humanitarian law" and "must end immediately," U.N. associate spokesperson Stephanie Tremblay said Monday.

Asked about the strike Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian military doesn't target residential buildings and suggested that the building was hit as a result of Ukrainian air-defense actions.

The strike on the building Saturday came amid a wider barrage of Russian cruise missiles across Ukraine. The Ukrainian military said Sunday that it did not have the means to intercept the type of Russian missile that hit the apartment building in Dnipro.

Fierce fighting continued to rage in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk province, where military analysts have said both sides are probably suffering heavy troop casualties. No independent verification of developments was possible.

Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk province make up the Donbas, an expansive industrial region bordering Russia that Russian President Vladimir Putin identified as a focus from the war's outset. Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Kyiv's forces there since 2014.

The Russian and Belarusian air forces began a joint exercise Monday in Belarus, which borders Ukraine and served as a staging ground for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The drills are set to run through Feb. 1, the Belarusian Defense Ministry said. Russia has sent its warplanes to Belarus for the drills.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, reported signs of the Kremlin taking steps to turn its Ukraine invasion into "a major conventional war" after months of embarrassing military reversals.

What Moscow calls "a special military operation" had aimed to capture Kyiv within weeks and install a Kremlin-friendly regime in the Ukrainian capital, but Russian forces ultimately withdrew from the area. Then came a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive in recent months before the onset of winter slowed military advances.

"The Kremlin is likely preparing to conduct a decisive strategic action in the next six months intended to regain the initiative and end Ukraine's current string of operational successes," the Institute for the Study of War said in a report late Sunday.

It noted reports indicating that the Russian military command was in "serious preparations" for an expanded mobilization effort, conserving mobilized personnel for future use while seeking to boost military industrial production and reshuffling its command structure.

That means that Ukraine's Western allies "will need to continue supporting Ukraine in the long run," the think tank said.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization member nations have sought in recent days to reassure Ukraine that they will stay the course. Britain has pledged tanks, and the U.S. military's new, expanded combat training of Ukrainian forces began in Germany on Sunday. Poland's prime minister urged the German government to supply a wide range of weapons to Kyiv and voiced hope that Berlin would soon approve a transfer of battle tanks.

Also Monday, Russian forces shelled the southern city of Kherson and the surrounding region, killing three people and wounding 14 others in a 24-hour period, regional Gov. Yaroslav Yanushevych said. In the city of Kherson, the shelling damaged a hospital, a center for disabled children, a shipyard, critical infrastructure and apartment buildings.

Russian forces also struck the city of Zaporizhzhia, damaging industrial infrastructure and wounding five people, two of them children, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, reported.

Russian air defenses downed seven drones Monday over the Black Sea near the port of Sevastopol in annexed Crimea, Mikhail Razvozhayev, the Russian-installed head of Sevastopol, reported.

EVGENIY MALOLETKA Associated Press

RESCUE workers on Monday carry the body of a man killed in a Russian missile strike Saturday on an apartment building in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro. The regional administration said 39 people have been rescued.

YAN DOBRONOSOV Global Images Ukraine

CREWS use cranes and other equipment to search the rubble of the apartment building struck by a missile in Dnipro, in an aerial view captured by a drone.

Minister of defense resigns in Germany

The announcement follows persistent criticism over military modernization and Ukraine weapons aid.

BY GEIR MOULSON AND FRANK JORDANS

BERLIN — Germany's much-criticized defense minister announced her resignation Monday after a series of missteps while her department steers the massive project of modernizing the country's military and oversees expanding weapons deliveries to Ukraine.

Christine Lambrecht said in a statement that she had submitted her resignation request to Chancellor Olaf Scholz, adding that "months of media focus on my person" had stood in the way of a factual debate about the military and Germany's security policy.

"The valuable work of the soldiers and many people in my department must stand in the foreground," she said.

Scholz thanked Lambrecht for her work in difficult times, saying he had "great respect" for her decision.

He declined immediately to say who would replace her but indicated that this would happen soon.

The new minister will quickly be thrown into the deep end in their new job. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III is scheduled to visit Berlin this week and then host a meeting of allies at Ramstein Air Base in western Germany. On Sunday, the German and French governments will hold bilateral talks that will include a meeting of the countries' joint security council.

"I know from my perspective how things should proceed and we will announce that in due time too," said Scholz.

A government spokesperson, Christiane Hoffmann, said earlier Monday that it was important to Scholz to ensure gender parity among ministers, but declined to comment on a possibility of a wider Cabinet reshuffle.

The 57-year-old Lambrecht had been defense minister since Scholz became chancellor in December 2021. Critics have long portrayed her as out of her depth, but Scholz stood by her, describing her last month as "a first-class defense minister." Pressure on her mounted recently after an ill-judged New Year's video message.

Lambrecht's resignation comes at a sensitive moment, as Scholz faces increasing pressure to take another significant step in German military aid to Ukraine by agreeing to deliver Leopard 2 battle tanks. This month, Germany agreed to provide 40 Marder armored personnel carriers and a Patriot air-defense missile battery to Kyiv.

Germany has given Ukraine substantial support in recent months, including howitzers, Gepard self-propelled antiaircraft guns and the first of four IRIS-T surface-to-air missile systems. But critics, some inside Germany's governing coalition, have long complained of Scholz's perceived hesitancy to step up aid. Lambrecht was overshadowed on the issue by the chancellor, who made most major announcements.

Lambrecht was Scholz's deputy when he was finance minister. She was appointed justice minister in 2019. She also served as minister for families and women in the closing months of then-Chancellor Angela Merkel's government.

She was respected in those roles but was widely viewed as one of the Scholz government's weakest links at the Defense Ministry.

The notoriously unwieldy department has a history of diminishing ministers' reputations.

The ministry's importance increased with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That prompted Scholz to announce a special $108-billion fund to upgrade the German military, the Bundeswehr, which has suffered for years from neglect and in particular from aging, poorly functioning equipment.

Last month, Lambrecht dismissed suggestions that the government had been too slow to get going on its spending drive. She said that officials have moved fast but that "such projects must be carefully negotiated — this is tax money."

The minister also drew criticism for hapless communication, starting with a January 2022 announcement that Germany would deliver 5,000 military helmets to Ukraine as "a very clear signal that we stand by your side."

In April, she took her 21-year-old son along on a military helicopter flight, which became public when he posted a photo on Instagram that it turned out Lambrecht had taken herself.

Her ministry said she had applied for permission and paid the costs herself, but critics said it showed poor judgment.

An amateurish New Year's video message on her private Instagram account prompted new opposition calls for Lambrecht's departure and strained political allies' patience.

It showed a barely audible Lambrecht speaking against a backdrop of loud New Year's Eve fireworks in a Berlin street.

"A war is raging in the middle of Europe," she said. "And connected with that for me were a lot of special impressions that I was able to gain — many, many meetings with interesting, great people."

Moulson and Jordans write for the Associated Press.

PHILIPP SCHULZE dpa

CHRISTINE LAMBRECHT takes a tank ride in February at a training center in Muenster, Germany.

Mafia boss is nabbed in Sicily

Convicted of dozens of murders, he was on the run for 30 years.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME — Italy's No. 1 fugitive, a Mafia boss convicted of helping to mastermind some of the nation's most heinous slayings, was arrested Monday as he sought treatment at a private clinic in Sicily after three decades on the run.

Matteo Messina Denaro was tried in absentia and convicted of dozens of murders, including masterminding, along with other Cosa Nostra bosses, a pair of 1992 bombings that killed top anti-Mafia prosecutors, leading Italy to stiffen its crackdown on the Sicilian crime syndicate. He faces multiple life sentences that he is expected to serve in a maximum-security prison under the particularly restrictive conditions reserved for top bosses of organized crime.

Messina Denaro, 60, went into hiding a year after those bombings but was still considered one of Cosa Nostra's top bosses, even as a fugitive. Hundreds of police officers were tasked over the years with tracking him, the last of three top-level Mafia bosses who managed to elude capture for decades.

Messina Denaro was captured at La Maddalena clinic in Palermo, an upscale medical facility with a reputation for treating cancer patients. Italian media said he had been undergoing treatment for a year.

"It all led to today's date [when] he would have come for some tests and treatment," said Carabinieri Gen. Pasquale Angelosanto, who heads the police force's special operations squad.

During an evening news conference, authorities said Messina Denaro's treatment could continue at a hospital prison ward.

Investigators said he was unarmed at the upscale clinic, wearing a watch worth at least $33,000.

"He didn't resist at all," Carabinieri Col. Lucio Arcidiacono told reporters.

In addition to convictions for killing prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, Messina Denaro was found guilty of killing Falcone's wife and several of their bodyguards, as well as the grisly murder of a Mafia turncoat's young son, who was abducted and strangled before his body was dissolved in a vat of acid.

Messina Denaro also was among the Cosa Nostra bosses convicted of ordering a series of bombings in 1993 that caused fatalities and damaged the Uffizi Galleries in Florence, two major churches in Rome and an art gallery in Milan.

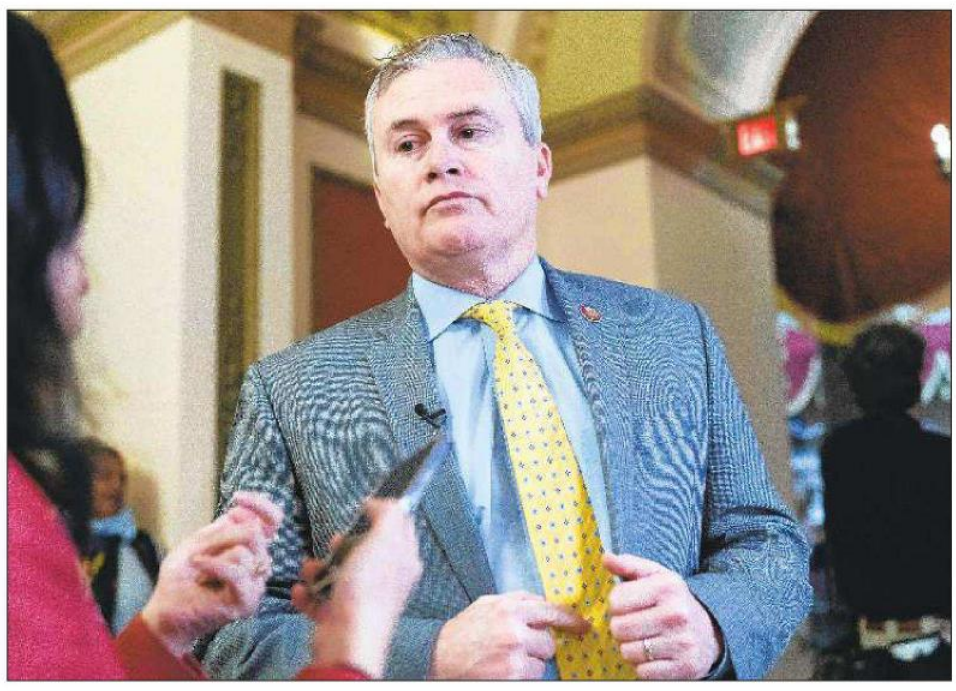
Carabinieri

FUGITIVE Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro, 60, is arrested Monday.

House GOP demands Biden's visitor logs

Newly empowered Republicans want the president to submit all materials in classified documents case.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



JOSE LUIS MAGANA Associated Press

REP. JAMES COMER says the aim of the visitor logs request is to determine who might have had access to classified material and how the records got there.

WASHINGTON — Newly empowered House Republicans on Sunday demanded the White House turn over all information related to its searches that have uncovered classified documents at President Biden's home and former office in the wake of more records being found at his Delaware residence.

Rep. James Comer (R-Ky.), chairman of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, said he wants to see all documents and communications related to the searches by the Biden team, as well as visitor logs of the president's home in Wilmington, Del., from Jan. 20, 2021, to present. He said the aim is to determine who might have had access to classified material and how the records got there.

The White House on Saturday said it had discovered five additional pages of classified documents at Biden's home on Thursday, the same day a special counsel was appointed to review the matter.

In a letter Sunday to White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain, Comer criticized the searches by Biden representatives and demanded that the White House provide all relevant information including visitor logs by the end of the month.

Appearing on CNN's "State of the Union," Comer referred to Biden's home as a "crime scene" though he acknowledged that it was not clear whether laws were broken.

Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, said the Justice Department rightfully appointed special counsels to "get to the bottom" of the Biden classified documents matter as well as in a separate investigation into the mishandling of classified documents at former President Trump's private club and residence in Florida.

But Raskin also emphasized key differences between the two cases, including that Biden's team readily handed over documents to the National Archives compared with Trump's repeated resistance to such requests.

"We should keep a sense of proportion and measure about what we're talking about," Raskin told CNN.

Asked Sunday whether his oversight committee would investigate Trump's handling of classified documents as well, Comer demurred.

"There have been so many investigations of President Trump, I don't feel like we need to spend a whole lot of time investigating President Trump, because the Democrats have done that for the past six years," he said.

U.S. Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said Sunday that although the agency provides security at the president's private residence, it does not maintain visitor logs. He added that the agency does screen visitors to the president's properties but doesn't maintain records of those checks.

The White House confirmed that Biden has not independently maintained records of who has visited his residence since he became president.

"Like every president in decades of modern history, his personal residence is personal," White House spokesman Ian Sams said. "But upon taking office, President Biden restored the norm and tradition of keeping White House visitors logs, including publishing them regularly, after the previous administration ended them."

Indeed, President Trump's administration announced early in his presidency that it wouldn't release visitor logs out of "grave national security risks and privacy concerns of the hundreds of thousands of visitors annually."

President Obama's administration initially fought attempts by Congress and conservative and liberal groups to obtain visitor records. But after being sued, it voluntarily began disclosing the logs in December 2009, posting records every three to four months.

A federal appeals court ruled in 2013 that the logs can be withheld under presidential executive privilege. That unanimous ruling was written by Judge Merrick Garland, who is now serving as Biden's attorney general.

Asked about Comer's request for logs and communications regarding the search for documents, Sams responded: "I would simply refer you to what Congressman Comer himself told CNN this morning: 'At the end of the day, my biggest concern isn't the classified documents to be honest with you.' That says it all."

In that CNN interview, Comer had added that House Republicans did not trust the Justice Department to give the matter of Biden's classified documents an appropriate level of scrutiny. The House Judiciary Committee on Friday requested that Garland turn over information related to the discovery of documents and Garland's appointment of special counsel Richard Hur to oversee the investigation.

White House lawyer Richard Sauber said in a statement Saturday that a search of Biden's private library yielded a total of six pages of classified documents from Biden's time serving as Obama's vice president. The White House previously said that only a single page was found there. The latest disclosure was in addition to the discovery of documents found in December in Biden's garage and in November at his former offices at the Penn Biden Center in Washington.

Sauber said that Biden's personal lawyers, who did not have security clearances, stopped their search after finding the first page on Wednesday evening. Sauber found the remaining material Thursday, as he was facilitating their retrieval by the Justice Department.

On holiday, King daughter calls for action over words

BY BILL BARROW

PARAS GRIFFIN Getty Images

THE REV. Bernice King speaks Monday at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where her father preached.

ATLANTA — America has honored the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with a federal holiday for nearly four decades yet still hasn't fully embraced and acted on the lessons from the slain civil rights leader, his youngest daughter said Monday.

The Rev. Bernice King, who leads the King Center in Atlanta, said leaders — especially politicians — too often cheapen her father's legacy into a "comfortable and convenient King" offering easy platitudes.

"We love to quote King in and around the holiday. ... But then we refuse to live King 365 days of the year," she said at the commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where her father once preached.

The service, sponsored by the center and held at Ebenezer annually, headlined observances of the 38th federal King holiday. King, gunned down in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968 as he advocated for better pay and working conditions for the city's sanitation workers, would have celebrated his 94th birthday Sunday.

Her voice rising and falling in cadences similar to her father's, Bernice King bemoaned institutional and individual racism, economic and healthcare inequities, police violence, a militarized international order, hardline immigration structures and the climate crisis. She said she's "exhausted, exasperated and, frankly, disappointed" to hear her father's words about justice quoted so extensively alongside "so little progress" addressing society's gravest problems.

"He was God's prophet sent to this nation and even the world to guide us and forewarn us. ... A prophetic word calls for an inconvenience because it challenges us to change our hearts, our minds and our behavior," Bernice King said. "Dr. King, the inconvenient King, puts some demands on us to change our ways."

President Biden on Monday addressed an MLK breakfast hosted in Washington by the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network. Sharpton got his start as a civil rights organizer in his teens as youth director of an anti-poverty project of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"This is a time for choosing," Biden said, repeating themes from a speech he delivered Sunday at Ebenezer at the invitation of Sen. Raphael Warnock, the senior pastor at Ebenezer who recently won reelection to a full term as Georgia's first Black U.S. senator.

"Will we choose democracy over autocracy, or community over chaos? Love over hate?" Biden said Monday. "These are the questions of our time that I ran for president to try to help answer. ... Dr. King's life and legacy — in my view — shows the way forward."

Other commemorations echoed Bernice King's reminder and Biden's allusions that the "Beloved Community" — Martin Luther King's descriptor for a world in which all people are free from fear, discrimination, hunger and violence — remains elusive.

In Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu talked about a fight for the truth in an era of hyper-partisanship and misinformation.

"We're battling not just two sides or left or right and a gradient in between that have to somehow come to compromise, but a growing movement of hate, abuse, extremism and white supremacy fueled by misinformation, fueled by conspiracy theories that are taking root at every level," she said.

Wu, the first woman and person of color elected mayor of Boston, said education restores trust. Quoting King, she called for overcoming the "fatigue of despair" to enact change. "It is sometimes in those moments when we feel most tired, most despairing, that we are just about to break through," Wu told attendees at a memorial breakfast.

Volunteers held a "day of service" focused on gun violence prevention in Philadelphia, which recorded 516 killings last year and 562 the year before, the highest total in at least six decades.

Some participants in the effort's signature project, led by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, worked to assemble gun safety kits for public distribution. The kits include "gun cable locks and additional safety devices for childproofing," organizers say. They also include information about firearm storage, health and social services information, and coping in the aftermath of gun violence.

In Selma, Ala., a seminal site in the civil rights movement, residents were commemorating King as they recover from a deadly storm system that moved across the South last week.

King was not present at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge for the initial march known as "Bloody Sunday," when Alabama state troopers beat marchers in March 1965. He joined a subsequent procession that crossed the bridge toward the Capitol in Montgomery, punctuating efforts that pushed Congress to pass and President Johnson to sign the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Pettus Bridge was unscathed by Thursday's storm.

Maine's first Black House speaker urged residents Monday to honor King's memory by joining in acts of service.

"His unshakable faith, powerful nonviolent activism and his vision for peace and justice in our world altered the course of history," Rachel Talbot Ross said in a statement. Talbot Ross is also the daughter of Maine's first Black lawmaker, and a former president of the Portland NAACP.

"We must follow his example of leading with light and love and recommit ourselves to building a more compassionate, just and equal community," she said.

At Ebenezer, Warnock, who has led the congregation for 17 years, hailed his predecessor's role in securing ballot access for Black Americans. But, like Bernice King, the senator warned against a reductive understanding of King.

"Don't just call him a civil rights leader. He was a faith leader," Warnock said. "Faith was the foundation upon which he did everything he did. You don't face down dogs and water hoses because you read Nietzsche or Niebuhr. You gotta tap into that thing, that God he said he met anew in Montgomery when someone threatened to bomb his house and kill his wife and his new child."

King, Warnock said, "left the comfort of a filter that made the whole world his parish," turning faith into "the creative weapon of love and nonviolence."

While echoing Bernice King's call for bolder public policy, Warnock noted some progress in his lifetime.

As he has done through two Senate campaigns, Warnock noted he was born a year after King's assassination, when both of Georgia senators were staunch segregationists.

But, Warnock said, "Because of what Dr. King and because of what you did ... I now sit in his seat."

Barrow writes for the Associated Press.

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LAPD closing in on council audio source

[**Recording,** from A1]
tigators to a second Twitter user, according to two sources not authorized to discuss the inquiry. The sources said detectives are continuing to pursue subscriber information for additional IP addresses, which are unique numerical sequences that can identify specific devices.

The investigators appear to be closer to confirming the identity of those behind the recordings, the sources told The Times.

While the online publication of the illegally made audio files is not a crime, detectives are seeking information about those behind the posts as a means of eventually reaching the party or parties that made the recordings.

Recording conversations without a person's consent is illegal in California, with rare exceptions.

The search warrant states that LAPD investigators believe that the recordings, made in October 2021 at the L.A. County Federation of Labor headquarters in Westlake, are a felony violation of the state eavesdropping law.

The warrant was issued Oct. 26, a day after LAPD Chief Michel Moore announced a criminal investigation into the leak. The inquiry was launched after three people heard on the audio filed reports saying they were recorded without their consent or knowledge, according to the warrant.

Moore has said the investigation was requested by Nury Martinez, who was City Council president at the time the recording was made; then-Councilmember Gil Cedillo; and Ron Herrera, who was president of the L.A. County Federation of Labor. A spokesperson for Councilmember Kevin de León has said he did not report a crime or request an investigation.

The racist language revealed in the recordings led to the resignations of Martinez and Herrera, cast a shadow over Cedillo's last months on the City Council and led to ongoing calls for De León to step down.

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

COUNCILMEMBER Kevin de León on Oct. 4 confers with Council President Nury Martinez, who has since resigned. A leaked recording involving them and two other officials is the subject of an ongoing LAPD inquiry.

According to documents obtained by The Times, LAPD Det. Mark Seston, who specializes in criminal conspiracy investigations, served the warrant on Twitter and Reddit on Oct. 28 and received "all requested" data and account information on Dec. 5. He asked for a 90-day delay in notifying the account holders that they were subject to the search.

Seston sought the IP addresses behind the accounts, along with billing addresses, credit card information, linked social media accounts, personal websites and phone numbers used for text verification. The detective also requested the IP addresses of the computers or devices logging into those accounts, which could lead to their owners.

The Reddit account that put up segments of the recording was identified as Honest-Finding-1581. On Oct. 6, Twitter account @LAunionLaundry tagged reporters and others, suggesting that they check out the Reddit account.

To seek a warrant, the detective had to show Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Teresa Sullivan that there was probable cause that a felony was committed in the making of the secret recordings.

Under state law, all parties must consent to a conversation being recorded. Violations can be prosecuted as a felony or a misdemeanor, but warrants can be obtained only for felony offenses. The law carries a three-year statute of limitations, so recordings from 2021 could be considered a crime.

Seston said in the warrant that the information from the two social media accounts has "a high probability of containing evidence that would assist in identifying the owner(s) ... and further identify the suspect(s) responsible for posting the private conversations.

"I believe this information would assist with revealing further avenues of investigation related to the felony crime of eavesdropping," Seston wrote.

Days after receiving the information from Twitter and Reddit, Seston filed another warrant that remains under seal, according to court records.

In the months since the initial warrant was filed, the investigation has focused heavily on those connected to the Federation of Labor and the conference room where the discussion took place, according to two sources familiar with the inquiry who spoke with The Times on condition of anonymity. Los Angeles Police Department detectives believe that a conference-call device in the room may have been compromised to capture the conversation and produce the recordings, the sources said.

After the audio clips were posted on Reddit, the Federation of Labor tried to block the Los Angeles Times from publishing the details, saying the recordings were obtained illegally. The Times refused, leading to widespread publication of the materials that ignited protests at City Hall.

Martinez and the other leaders at the meeting have said they were unaware they were being recorded.

During the conversation, Martinez said that Councilmember Mike Bonin, who is white, handled his young Black son as though he were an "accessory" and described the boy as like a "*changuito*," or "monkey."

Martinez also mocked Oaxacans and, referring to Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón, said, "F— that guy. ... He's with the Blacks." The discussion also included divisive remarks about Jewish and Armenian residents.

The leaked recordings were met with universal condemnation, with leaders from President Biden on down calling for the resignation of the three council members. In the aftermath, Martinez resigned. Cedillo's term ended Dec. 12, but De León has refused to quit despite mounting pressure.

Detectives believe the audio made public via Reddit may be a portion of a much larger set of recordings made at the Federation of Labor offices without consent. The release to the public may have been spurred by a power struggle within the federation, according to a source with detailed knowledge of the LAPD investigation.

California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta is conducting a broader investigation into the Los Angeles redistricting process that took place in the fall, saying an inquiry is needed to "restore confidence" in the makeup of the city's 15 council districts. That process was underway when Martinez, Cedillo and De León were recorded discussing redistricting.

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BUSINESS

Tree hits car or home in storm: Who pays?

The answer will vary depending on the circumstances that led to the damage and your insurance policy.

By Jon Healey

Sara Nevis Associated Press

A WORKER assesses which branches to remove first from two homes damaged Jan. 8 in Sacramento after strong winds toppled trees.

The winds and rainstorms lashing California this month have sent trees and branches crashing down on houses, garages, cars and, tragically, people.

When a tree trunk or limb damages your property, one of your first questions is likely to be, "Who's going to pay for this?" Chances are good that you'll have to pick up at least part of the cost.

There are five key factors at work:

- What was damaged?
- What caused the tree to fall?
- Whose property was the tree on?
- What condition was the tree in?
- What are the terms of your insurance policy?

In some cases, you may have to foot the full bill. In others, though, your net cost could be zero.

Home or auto?

The most likely source of help when a falling tree limb damages something you own is your insurance policy. Damage to a structure on your property — house, garage or shed — would potentially be covered by a homeowners policy. Damage to items inside said house, garage or shed would potentially be covered by a homeowners or renters policy, as would damage to items in a vehicle. Damage to a vehicle could be covered by an auto policy, if it had the right options.

The coverage is merely potential, not certain, because of some of the other factors involved.

First and most important is which sort of weather event uprooted the tree or snapped its limbs.

Your homeowners policy will cover damage caused by trees only if it stemmed from a windstorm, lightning or hail. An earthquake requires a separate policy, as does a flood or a mudslide. Renters' policies have similar limits.

One notable exception that's important in California: If the tree is part of a debris flow from an area scorched by a wildfire, you can claim that the "proximate cause" was the fire (which your homeowners policy covers), not the floodwaters (which it doesn't).

A second crucial question is the condition of the tree. If it was healthy and well-maintained, then the proximate cause of the damage probably was the wind that shook it hard enough to send its limbs flying. That's considered an event out of your control, and the standard insurance policy will cover it, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

You would still have to pay your policy's deductible, however. If the tree was on someone else's property, your insurer may seek reimbursement from that person — and possibly refund your deductible as well, the Insurance Information Institute says.

If your claim is paid, your insurance premiums could rise in the future because homeowners insurers base their rates in part on their customers' claims history. In fact, if you make multiple large claims, you may have trouble finding an insurer willing to cover your home.

If the tree was unhealthy and planted on your property, then your insurer could argue that the proximate cause of the damage was your poor maintenance, not the storm. In that case, you'd have to foot the entire bill. (And even if it was a healthy tree, if its trunk or limbs fell without striking anything, you'd be responsible for the cleanup cost. Your insurer won't pay for tree removal unless a covered structure is damaged or your driveway is blocked.)

If the unhealthy tree was on someone else's property, then you should be able to claim reimbursement from that person's homeowners insurance, Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. says on its website. But it adds, "Keep in mind that negligence can sometimes be difficult to prove. Your case will be stronger if you've previously asked the neighbor to remove the decaying tree or sent them a certified letter from a tree professional stating the need for the tree to be removed."

If a tree hits a car?

The first question here is whether you have comprehensive coverage. The state of California requires drivers to have coverage for collisions and liability; comprehensive, which covers everything else, is optional.

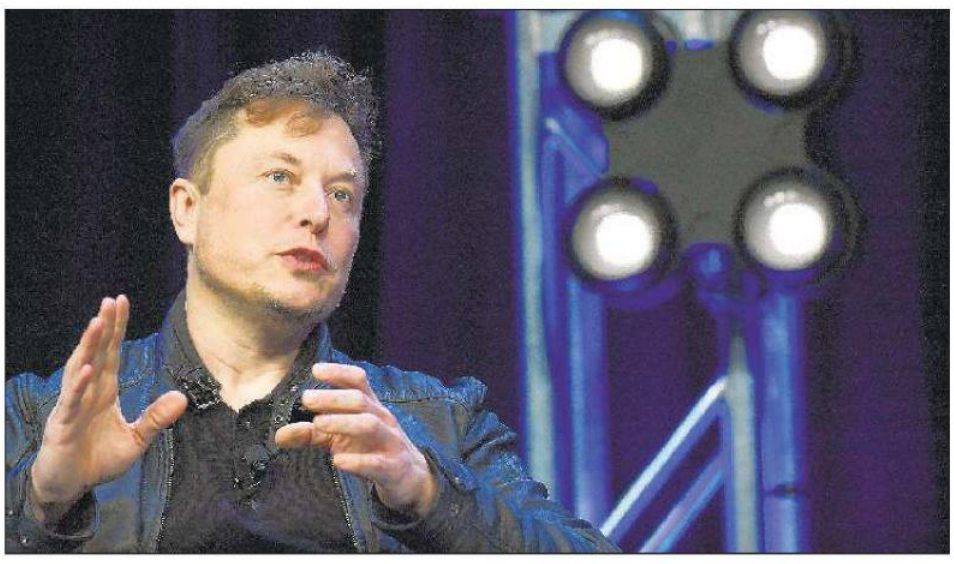
If you do have that coverage, the second question is whether the tree in question was on your property. If so, your auto insurer could deny your claim if the tree wasn't well-maintained or if its collapse wasn't caused by winds, hail or lightning.

Assuming that it wasn't your tree, or at least not a sickly tree in your yard, and you have comprehensive coverage, you'll still have to pay the deductible. Under California law, though, your auto insurance premiums should not go up after a claim if you're not principally at fault.

Musk's next drama: A trial over his tweets about Tesla

Long before the billionaire purchased Twitter in October, he set his sights on taking the carmaker private.

Associated Press



Susan Walsh Associated Press

DESPITE CLAIMS by Tesla chief Elon Musk in 2018 that financing was in place for his $72-billion buyout, it never materialized. Jury selection starts Tuesday.

While still grappling with the fallout from a company he did take private, beleaguered billionaire Elon Musk is now facing a trial over a company he didn't.

Long before Musk purchased Twitter for $44 billion in October, he had set his sights on Tesla, the electric automaker where he continues to serve as CEO and from which he derives most of his wealth and fame.

Musk claimed in a Aug. 7, 2018, tweet that he had lined up the financing to pay for a $72-billion buyout of Tesla, which he then amplified with a follow-up statement that made a deal seem imminent.

But the buyout never materialized and now Musk will have to explain his actions under oath in a federal court in San Francisco. The trial, which begins Tuesday with jury selection, was triggered by a class-action lawsuit on behalf of investors who owned Tesla stock for a 10-day period in August 2018.

Musk's tweets back then fueled a rally in Tesla's stock price that abruptly ended a week later, after it became apparent that he didn't have the funding for a buyout after all. That resulted in him scrapping his plan to take the automaker private, culminating in a $40-million settlement with U.S. securities regulators that also required him to step down as the company's chairman.

Musk has since contended that he entered that settlement under duress and maintained that he believed he had locked up financial backing for a Tesla buyout during meetings with representatives from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

The trial's outcome may hinge on the jury's interpretation of Musk's motive for tweets that U.S. District Judge Edward Chen has already decided were a falsehood.

Chen dealt Musk another setback Friday, when he rejected Musk's bid to transfer the trial to a federal court in Texas, where Tesla moved its headquarters in 2021. Musk had argued that negative coverage of his Twitter purchase had poisoned the jury pool in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Musk's leadership of Twitter — where he has gutted the staff and alienated users and advertisers — has proved unpopular among Tesla's current stockholders, who are worried that he has been devoting less time steering the automaker at a time of intensifying competition. Those concerns contributed to a 65% decline in Tesla's stock last year that wiped out more than $700 billion in shareholder wealth — far more than the $14 billion swing in fortune that occurred between the company's high and low stock prices during the Aug. 7-17, 2018, period covered in the class-action lawsuit.

The lawsuit is based on the premise that Tesla's shares wouldn't have traded at such a wide range if Musk hadn't dangled the prospect of buying the company for $420 a share. Tesla's stock has split twice since then, making that $420 price worth $28 on adjusted basis now. The shares closed last week at $122.40, down from their November 2021 split-adjusted peak of $414.50.

After Musk dropped the idea of a Tesla buyout, the company overcame a production problem, resulting in a rapid upturn in car sales that caused its stock to soar and minted Musk as the world's richest person until he bought Twitter. Musk dropped from the top spot on the wealth list after the stock market's backlash to his handling of Twitter.

The trial is likely to provide insights into Musk's management style, given that the witness list includes some of Tesla's current and former top executives and board members, including luminaries such as Larry Ellison, Oracle's co-founder, as well as James Murdoch, son of media mogul Rupert Murdoch. The drama also may shed light on Musk's relationship with his brother, Kimbal, who is also on the list of potential witnesses who may be called during a trial that's scheduled to continue through Feb. 1.

Business earns the most trust in a polarized world

In a 28-nation survey, 62% see companies as competent and ethical, beating media and governments.

Associated Press

People worldwide are more gloomy about their economic prospects than ever before and trust business far more than other institutions such as governments, nonprofits and the media in an increasingly divided world, according to a survey from public relations firm Edelman.

Released late Sunday to coincide with the World Economic Forum's gathering of business elites and government leaders this week in Davos, Switzerland, the online survey conducted in 28 countries shows that fewer people believe their family will be better off in five years.

Those who believe they'll be better off dropped to 40% from 50% last year and hit all-time lows in 24 nations. That is because 89% fear losing their job, 74% worry about inflation, 76% are concerned about climate change and 72% worry about nuclear war.

The Edelman Trust Barometer also says 62% of respondents see business as both competent and ethical, compared with 59% for nongovernmental agencies, 51% for governments and 50% for the media. That was attributed to how companies treated workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and return to offices as well as many businesses vowing to exit Russia after it invaded Ukraine.

People still said they distrusted chief executives as well as government leaders and journalists, while trusting their own corporate executives, co-workers and neighbors. Scientists were trusted the most — by 76% of respondents.

"The increased level of trust in business brings with it higher-than-ever expectations of CEOs to be a leading voice on societal issues," said Richard Edelman, CEO of Edelman. "By a 6-to-1 margin, respondents want more societal involvement by business on issues such as climate change, economic inequality and workforce reskilling."

But companies face stirring contention by jumping into those topics, with 52% saying businesses can't avoid politicization when they tackle divisive social issues, he said.

Despite the uncertainty, people want companies to stand up for them: 63% say they buy or advocate for brands based on their beliefs and values.

Most respondents say business should do more, not less, to deal with climate change, economic inequality and other issues.

This comes as social divisions have become entrenched, creating a polarized world that has left people feeling like they can't overcome their differences or are not even willing to help others who don't share their beliefs, the survey says.

Less than one-third of respondents said they would help, live with or work with someone who strongly disagrees with their viewpoints. Six countries — Argentina, Colombia, the U.S., South Africa, Spain and Sweden — were listed as severely polarized, driven by distrust in government and a lack of shared identity.

If divisions are not addressed, people fear the result will be worsening prejudice and discrimination, slower economic development and violence in the streets, the report said.

More than 40% in the survey believe governments and companies must work together to solve social issues, with the onus on the most trusted institution — business — to bring people together.

Most respondents — 64% — said companies supporting politicians and media outlets that build consensus would help increase civility and strengthen society.

In its 23rd year, the Edelman Trust Barometer surveyed more than 32,000 people online in 28 countries — including Argentina, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. — from Nov. 1 to 28.

Markets closed

U.S. financial markets were closed Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Housing voucher hurdles are high in S.F.

[**Unhoused,** from A1]
crises in the nation, less than 50% of emergency housing vouchers are in use. And in San Francisco — one of the most expensive housing markets in the country — just 44% of the 906 vouchers the city received have actually housed people.

As The Times has previously reported, some expensive cities, including San Diego, have excelled in placing people into homes with the vouchers.

Despite the efforts of its local housing agency and city government, though, San Francisco has fallen behind. Voucher recipients such as De La Cruz find themselves lost in the rental market maze, clutching their golden ticket to a home, but with little guidance on how to reach the prize.

"I sometimes don't want to keep on going. I want to just give up," De La Cruz said. "If I had somebody sitting next to me, guiding me, coming with me to the units, calling the managers and landlords" — maybe then, she could put her voucher to use and secure a home for her family.

Photographs by PAUL KURODA For The Times

EFRAIN SANDOVAL and Cynthia Scott of Catholic Charities SF visit a person they are trying to assist with housing in San Francisco in September. Their organization refers people to the federal voucher program.

To find a home, De La Cruz and other San Franciscans with emergency housing vouchers must navigate not only the city's tight rental market, but also the thicket of organizations the city has enlisted to help them.

De La Cruz, a soft-spoken 37-year-old who immigrated from Guatemala in 2014, had been living homeless in Bayview for just over a year when Efrain Sandoval, a program manager for Catholic Charities SF, knocked on her door in December 2021.

De La Cruz was struggling.

In May, the San Francisco Housing Authority approved De La Cruz for a voucher. But the agency couldn't reach her; De La Cruz was behind on her phone bills.

Sandoval saw De La Cruz's name on the housing agency's list of people slated to receive a voucher. He tried calling and texting De La Cruz. Later that day, he walked over to her camper, relayed the good news and told her the next steps.

She eagerly attended a briefing at the housing authority and received a packet of information on the process: how much her voucher was worth, a notice that the voucher would expire in 120 days, a checklist for what to look for in a new home, a delineation of her rights, and a list of resources.

The packet also included a new point of contact — a housing navigator at Providence Foundation, another local nonprofit, who would help her find a home. In San Francisco, the organizations that help voucher recipients find homes are separate from the nonprofits that refer people into the program. Catholic Charities SF fulfilled its role in signing De La Cruz up for a voucher, and now Providence Foundation would help her with the housing search.

Hundreds of miles to the south, San Diego uses a different system. About half of the service providers that support that city's emergency voucher program not only help clients apply for vouchers, but also assist them in their search. The San Diego Housing Commission also hired five full-time specialists to aid with housing searches that referring agencies can't handle. San Diego's voucher recipients typically deal with fewer entities and are less likely to fall through the cracks.

In San Francisco, De La Cruz was not so lucky. Within weeks of receiving her voucher, she realized she would be on her own in her search for a home. Her point of contact at Providence didn't speak Spanish, and no one at the agency came knocking on her door or knew exactly where her camper was parked, she said. (The Times called Providence's number multiple times to ask about De La Cruz's case; no one answered. A voicemail message was not returned.) She found that calling the other resources listed in her briefing packet was fruitless. Usually, no one picked up. When someone did, she ran into a language barrier.

SHAYLA ANDERSON kisses boyfriend Eddie Ordenez before they go to new housing in San Francisco.

With more than $4,000 a month in federal funds to help her pay for housing, and her name in the files of at least four city and nonprofit groups, De La Cruz was still left alone to navigate the housing search. So she limited it. She considered only the listings that she could pull up on her phone on Zillow. She mainly toured apartments around Bayview, near where she was parked. And she talked only to landlords who spoke Spanish.

Often, before she could even apply for a unit, landlords would tell De La Cruz that they didn't work with people who had housing vouchers. (It's illegal to discriminate against voucher holders, but landlords remain reluctant to accept them.)

If a landlord was willing to accept a voucher, she'd find out that the unit cost more than her voucher would cover.

Voucher recipients typically pay 30% of their income toward rent, and the voucher covers the rest. Most cities use a single number, called a fair market rent rate, to determine the maximum amount a housing voucher is worth. For a three-bedroom voucher in San Francisco, that number is $4,111. Emergency housing vouchers can be used at 120% of the fair market rate, which means De La Cruz's three-bedroom voucher can be applied to a unit with a rent of up to $4,933 per month. On Apartment List, the average monthly rent for a three-bedroom in San Francisco tops $5,000.

A more nuanced approach might offer advantages. Some jurisdictions across the U.S., including San Diego, use small-area fair market rents, which are calculated by ZIP Code within a city. This means that the amount a voucher can cover varies by neighborhood. In more expensive neighborhoods, vouchers are worth more.

Most of the jurisdictions the federal government has required to use this system — including San Diego — have housed voucher recipients at rates above the national average. Housing agencies elsewhere are allowed to opt in, but many expensive cities, including San Francisco, have not.

Even if De La Cruz managed to find a landlord willing to work with vouchers and a unit within her price range, she faced a third hurdle. Rental applications generally request potential tenants to list a current address, and De La Cruz did not have one, tipping landlords off that she was currently homeless. After that, she'd often just never hear back.

"I don't want to lie on applications, either," De La Cruz said. "I feel trapped."

Her struggle to secure a home dragged on for months.

In San Francisco right now, about 200 people have the new vouchers in hand, are ready to be housed and are still homeless. Nationally, that number is around 30,000 people.

The San Francisco Housing Authority and the city's Department of Homelessness and Housing point to the city's tough rental market as a reason for the city's low voucher utilization numbers: Rent is high, vacancies are low and receiving 906 vouchers at once and efficiently distributing them is a monumental task, they said. Given these hurdles, the city remains proud of its progress with the vouchers, officials said, particularly as local government agencies and nonprofits operated with fewer staff members because of the pandemic.

The city's service providers "are very committed and understand the importance of maintaining communication and engagement with our individuals and families. ... Sometimes we lose touch with folks if their phone number changes. That happens pretty often. Our partners are really aware of that possibility, and they gather information about where folks hang out and where they're staying," said Alan Guttirez, manager of housing subsidy programs with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. "Sometimes there's just barriers to staying in touch."

One morning in August, Sandoval, the Catholic Charities SF program manager who had knocked on De La Cruz's door the previous winter, noticed that she was still living out of her camper.

De La Cruz told him about her struggles to secure housing even with the voucher. Sandoval said he reached out to contacts at the city on her behalf, and pushed them to reassign De La Cruz to a Spanish-speaking housing navigator in the neighborhood.

Jessica Lopez pulled much of the weight of the housing search. She called landlords to verify if they'd be willing to work with a voucher (and reminded them it's illegal to refuse), explained that costs such as the rental deposit would be covered, told the family's story and assisted with applications.

By a sunny Wednesday in mid-September, Lopez had submitted paperwork for a unit in Bayview. The landlord just needed to decrease the rent by about $80 a month to fit within De La Cruz's voucher limits. To persuade the landlord to accept the application, the city offered a $1,000 incentive, Lopez said.

On Oct. 15, De La Cruz and her kids finally moved into a new home. It was freshly painted blue, trimmed in off-white, four blocks away from where her camper used to be parked.

It even had a yard.

Cartel suspected of killing 6 in Tulare County

[**Tulare County,** from A1]
ports of gunfire found the infant cradled in the arms of her 17-year-old mother, who also had a gunshot wound to the head, in a ditch outside the home.

An elderly woman found dead in a bed also was shot in the head.

"It appeared she was shot in her sleep," Boudreaux said.

Three men were also killed. One was alive when deputies arrived. He was given CPR and taken to the hospital, where he died of his injuries.

It was unclear whether the man arrested last week during the search by a gang and narcotics unit of the county Sheriff's Office was one of the victims, Boudreaux said. DNA testing will be required to identify at least one of the male victims because of damage done to his face by the gun or guns used, the sheriff said.

Two women survived the attack by hiding in a trailer on the property.

Boudreaux said they told investigators that people on the property saw intruders approaching on surveillance cameras.

"They could see two men sneaking onto the property ... but by the time they came on [the video feed], it was too late to do anything," he said.

The door of the home had been kicked or pushed in, and one man was shot in the doorway. It appeared the teenage mother was trying to run away with her child when they were killed, Boudreaux said.

Investigators did not release names or descriptions of the suspects.

The "manner and swiftness" of the attacks suggested experienced killers, Boudreaux said.

"If [they] are specifically shooting everyone in the head, they know what they are doing ... [and] they are comfortable with what they are doing," the sheriff said.

The first indication that something was wrong on the property on Harvest Road just east of Highway 99 came about 3:38 a.m.

A woman who said she was in a trailer next to the main residence reported that "a male — Larry — shot her boyfriend," according to a recording of a Sheriff's Office dispatch.

"She believes somebody may be inside the house," a dispatcher told responding deputies. "She's scared."

Additional 911 calls were coming in from neighbors "across the street advising they're hearing gunshots," the dispatcher said.

Deputies arrived and began assessing the carnage.

"How many total ambulances do you need out there?" the dispatcher asked.

"Four," a deputy said. Later, he told her they had found more victims and needed two more ambulances. The last one, he said, "It'll be [for] a child."

The slayings stunned the quiet community of Goshen, a mostly Latino community of about 5,000.

One man, who asked not to be identified because he feared retribution, said he was awakened by a volley of gunfire. That gave way to "on and off shots" and the sound of a car speeding away, he said.

After learning from the news that six people had been killed, some apparently as they tried to escape, he concluded that those final sporadic gun blasts were the killers "chasing people."

"Basically hunting," the man said.

Tulare County Supervisor Eddie Valero, who represents the town, called the deaths "everyone's worst nightmare."

"These senseless acts of violence, especially with infants, children and young adults, have no place in our communities," Valero said.

For a small agricultural area of less than half a million people, Tulare County has long played an outsize role in the transnational business of moving drugs from Mexico to markets around the United States.

Bisected by Highway 99, with a sparse law enforcement presence, acres of wide open land and a highly mobile population of farmworkers, the area has served as a smugglers' paradise since at least the 1970s.

In more recent decades, the area has been home to the production of meth and the cultivation of both legal and illegal marijuana.

Some of the most prominent — and most violent — figures of Mexico's recent drug wars have ties to Tulare, including Jose Maria Guizar Valencia, a former leader of the brutal Zetas cartel, who was born there.

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

OFFICIALS WITH the Tulare County Sheriff's Office remove a body from a property where six people were killed Monday in the farming town of Goshen.

> 'They could see two men sneaking onto the property ... but by the time they came on [the video feed], it was too late to do anything.'
>
> — SHERIFF MIKE BOUDREAUX, describing victims of deadly shootings in Tulare County

Times staff writer Patrick McDonnell and special correspondent Cecilia Sánchez in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

A dark history of medical experiments on inmates

UCSF apologized for unethical research conducted decades ago. It's not too late to make amends.

JEFF CHIU Associated Press

UC SAN FRANCISCO has apologized for conducting unethical experimental medical treatments on 2,600 inmates in the 1960s and 1970s.

IT'S SHAMEFUL that it took decades for UC San Francisco to acknowledge and publicly apologize for faculty members who conducted unethical experiments on hundreds of men incarcerated at a medical facility in Northern California. Only now has the institution begun reckoning with its dark history of medical experimentation on inmates.

A university investigation, started in 2022, found that two faculty members violated medical research ethics when they conducted invasive dermatological experiments on 2,600 men incarcerated at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville during the 1960s and 1970s.

UCSF issued a public apology last month for the harms it caused the men after reviewing the findings of an investigation conducted by the Program for Historical Reconciliation, which the university created to examine claims of ethical wrongdoing in the past. It was the group's first investigation, which focused on experiments conducted by Dr. Howard Maibach, a current faculty member, and Dr. William Epstein, a former dermatology chair who died in 2006.

The men conducted experiments on inmates at the prison hospital that included testing of pesticides and herbicides applied directly on the skin and intravenously, and placing small cages with mosquitoes on or near inmates' skin to determine the "attractiveness" of humans to mosquitoes.

Researchers pored over more than 7,000 documents, including journal articles co-written by Maibach and archival materials, to assess whether inmates were properly informed about the risks involved and gave informed consent. The investigation found there was no documentation of informed consent for most experiments, but Maibach contests those findings.

UCSF knew its research was questionable as early as 1973. An article that year in the Atlantic contained a description of experiments conducted on California Medical Facility inmates, which included an interview with an inmate who said the tests caused burns. Some inmates became so ill that they lost significant weight or had to be hospitalized. The article questioned the role played by the Solano Institute for Medical and Psychiatric Research, a nonprofit that authorized medical research on inmates at the California Medical Facility.

Though various institutions had been conducting medical experiments on inmates for years, the practice came under scrutiny decades ago. Governmental institutions were developing guidelines to protect these vulnerable communities and questioning whether inmates were able to provide informed consent. In 1977, California halted all research on inmates in state prisons, a year after the federal government did the same. Today, the American Medical Assn. Code of Medical Ethics prohibits experimentation on inmates, except under very limited circumstances.

In response to the investigation, Maibach issued a letter expressing regret for conducting research that doesn't meet today's ethical standards but offered no apology to former inmates who served as his test subjects. Maibach, a widely cited and celebrated dermatologist, won't be subject to an academic or employment investigation at UCSF due to the school's statute of limitations, according to the dermatology chair.

But he wasn't the only doctor experimenting on vulnerable populations. Many children in state hospitals and orphanages during the Cold War were subjected to experiments that exposed them to hepatitis, meningitis, ringworm, influenza, measles, mumps and polio. The Tuskegee study studied the progression of syphilis in Black men without informing them about their diagnosis or providing treatment when it became available. Many of our nation's most vaunted institutions endorsed and benefited from such research.

UCSF requested the investigation after finding out that Maibach and Epstein long ago trained with Dr. Albert Kligman, a University of Pennsylvania faculty member whose experiments on mostly Black inmates at Holmesburg Prison in Philadelphia for more than two decades exposed them to dangerous chemicals, including viruses, fungi, LSD and dioxin, a carcinogen used in Agent Orange. The experiments led to the invention of the acne medication Retin-A and anti-aging medication Renova. Just last week, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia issued an apology and rescinded a lifetime achievement award the organization gave Kligman, who died in 2010.

UCSF has taken important first steps in acknowledging and apologizing for the harms its researchers caused the inmates and their families. Now, it should move expeditiously in adopting all the recommendations made by researchers at the Program for Historical Reconciliation. This includes developing an oral history of people subjected to research at the California Medical Facility from 1955 to 1977, and conducting an investigation of the Solano Institute for Medical and Psychiatric Research.

It's imperative that the institution continue the necessary work of educating the medical community about this painful chapter of medical experimentation. Too many experiments and forced medical procedures have been conducted on vulnerable populations to think it can't happen again.

It's also important to fully account for past wrongdoings to begin rebuilding trust from these communities. UCSF needs to find former inmates or their survivors to uncover specific harms caused by the experimentation and consider offering reparations.

For years, the medical community conducted experiments on vulnerable communities with impunity. Though it has taken UCSF too long to offer its apology, it's never too late to try to make amends.

LETTERS

BRONTE WITTPENN San Francisco Chronicle

A DEMONSTRATOR winces as police try to prevent a crowd from entering People's Park in Berkeley Aug. 3.

Caught in the People's Park protest

Re "Decades later, People's Park once again the site of a fight," Jan. 13

ONCE AGAIN, UC BERKELEY WANTS to use People's Park for student housing, and once again, students and others have erupted in protest. This time, I am on the side of university officials and the cops.

People's Park in Berkeley has always seen a collection of stoners and others who lived on the margins. In 1969, the student body president-elect at UC Berkeley egged on the cops by announcing a march to retake the park.

My girlfriend and I were on our way to class, trying to avoid all of the racket. Our books were under our arms. A California Highway Patrol officer aimed his shotgun at us. We fled but still ended up in the hospital.

It was a dumb idea to provoke the cops, some of whom loved to chase people with billy clubs. One kid died and another was blinded.

Calling that day sacred is a hippie fantasy. We should have focused on stopping the Vietnam War, not picking a fight we were never going to win.

MIKE RODDY, Alameda

Defending fired art professor

Re "This teacher shouldn't have lost her job," Opinion, Jan. 11

I agree with Robin Abcarian that professor Erika López Prater at Hamline University in Minnesota should not have been fired. She gave full warning that the picture of the prophet Muhammad would be shown in her syllabus, during class and immediately before presenting the artwork.

The class was totally aware of and encouraged to respond or not view the image if students found it objectionable. No one did.

It was an art history class. Artwork is shown and discussed. It was a university class, a place to learn, stretch ourselves, hear other views.

Abcarian said it best: "I hope that Hamline University officials, instead of digging in, recognize their mistake and reinstate López Prater. And that the students who were offended will come to understand that they can live out their convictions without trampling on the rights of others."

DIANA CRISPI
Los Angeles

::

I read Abcarian's columns every week, and while I often don't agree with her opinions, I think her article on the Hamline University art controversy was right on.

Judging by the facts, I suspect that this student had every intention of filing a complaint before all the warnings were given about the sensitive subject matter. I am not shocked that Hamline University responded the way it did, as we've become a society of close-mindedness that overreacts to any perceived slight that may or may not occur.

In all honesty, rather than López Prater having had to apologize (for merely presenting art that was created within the Muslim community hundreds of years ago), it is López Prater who is due the apology. She did nothing wrong.

CHRIS WRENN
Carlsbad

We pay for their bad policy

Re "Cut Medicare? Here's how real leaders would handle the deficit," Opinion, Jan. 12

We should resist Republican efforts to cut Medicare and Social Security in the name of fiscal responsibility.

There are three reasons for large federal deficits, and none has a connection to overspending on so-called entitlements.

The first is the huge tax cuts for the rich during the George W. Bush administration. The second is the huge tax cut for the rich under the Trump administration. The third is the drastic underfunding of the Internal Revenue Service, which allows tax cheating by the rich (see the reporting on former President Trump's tax returns).

Do you detect any evidence here of Republican fiscal responsibility?

THOMAS ALDEN
Palm Desert

::

What upsets me whenever I read about lawmakers debating public healthcare (be it Medicare or Medicaid) is the fact that every member of Congress has access to a health insurance package funded by you and me, the American taxpayer.

Yes, the common citizen, by virtue of paying taxes, pays for the salaries and benefits of every federal employee, including members of Congress.

I see no reason why every American should not receive the same health benefit options as our members of Congress. Or, let them grovel for healthcare as they would have us.

TOM BRAYTON
Long Beach

::

I always enjoy the perspective that LZ Granderson brings to his opinion pieces, but I need to school him on one thing. He's fallen into the trap of calling Social Security and Medicare "entitlements."

I retired in 2021 at 62 and have worked for these benefits since I was 16. People need to remember that they pay into these programs their entire working lives, so the benefits are hardly a handout.

Perhaps The Times should adopt a style guide exception that replaces "entitlements" with "benefits" any time these vital and valuable programs are referenced.

MIKE VILLANO
Lake Balboa

Football's toll

Re "Heisman winner, USC's all-time rushing leader," obituary, Jan. 12

Former USC Trojans running back Charles White's name can likely be added to the list of football greats who have suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, beginning with Pittsburgh Steelers legend Mike Webster's death in 2002.

This disease has been found in the brains of more than 320 former NFL players. Of the 111 who have donated their brains for study, 110 have been diagnosed posthumously with CTE.

This problem has been identified. It's long past time that something serious should be done about it.

PATRICIA FRENCH
Palm Springs

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Praying for water and deities' mercy

[**Rain,** from A1]
world pray for rain beginning on the last day of the fall harvest festival of Sukkot and continue until Passover arrives in the spring.

The tension between too much rain and not enough is embedded in a long and poetic prayer, recited by worshipers for thousands of years. It ends with these words:

You are Adonai, our God
Who causes the wind to blow and the rain to fall.
For blessing and not for curse.
For life and not for death.
For plenty and not for lack.

The biblical story of Noah's Ark and the great flood, a foundational myth for Jewish people, and for Christians and Muslims as well, demonstrates that torrential rain has long been seen as a punishment.

"I don't read the Noah story literally, but I do see it as a type of sacred myth that invites me to think about how human behavior can influence the larger world," Zweiback said. "We can connect that to climate change, and we can also connect it to the way we are in the world and how that can affect our environment in every sense of the word."

In Islam, rain is considered a giver of life and associated with resurrection, said Muzammil Siddiqi, religious director of the Islamic Society of Orange County in Garden Grove. Rain is mentioned several times in the Quran, including in Chapter 25, verses 48-49, where it is written:

We send down pure water from the sky. That with it We may give life to a dead land, and slake the thirst of things We have created, cattle and men in great numbers.

In 2015, another time of drought, Siddiqi led 20,000 Muslims in prayers at the end of Ramadan, concluding with a prayer for rain in which he raised his hands to the heavens asking God for a "rain that will bring benefit to us, and will not bring any harm to us."

"On the one hand, rain is a blessing that makes our land produce more and become fertile, and on the other hand, too much rain means disaster," Siddiqi said.

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS Associated Press

A STONE sculpture depicts Tlaloc, "he who makes things sprout." The Aztec rain god was portrayed as both fearsome and beautiful with thick fangs and circular eyes made of serpents.

> 'On the one hand, rain is a blessing that makes our land produce more and become fertile, and on the other hand, too much rain means disaster.'
>
> MUZAMMIL SIDDIQI, religious director of the Islamic Society of Orange County

In this tension of opposites he sees an invitation to practice humility, a perspective that stands in contrast to California's centuries-long, hubristic efforts to dam up, divert and tame rain and runoff. "Despite all the things we have, we cannot control rain," he said. "All we can do is turn to God and ask for blessings."

Scientists say California will experience more extreme drought and more extreme rainfall as the planet continues to warm because of human activity, but ultimately, the challenge we're experiencing — too much or not enough — is one with which human societies have always had to grapple.

"We have these two emergencies, the drought and the rain," said Jennifer Savage of Humboldt County, who works on ocean policy for the Surfrider Foundation. "What's wrong with us that the answer to one results in another emergency?"

For Swami Sarvadevananda, the spiritual leader of the Vedanta Society of Southern California, the duality inherent in rain reflects the duality present in all things.

"The Vedantic idea is that this world is a mix of good and bad," he said. "There is no absolute good and no absolute bad. That is the nature of creation."

Rather than fight this truth, Vedanta philosophy teaches practitioners to accept duality, Sarvadevananda said. And also, that this duality can be transcended by recognizing the singular consciousness that exists behind all things.

"If you see the divine only in the temple, that is one thing," he said. "But if you see the divine in everything, that is a better spiritual practice. Worshiping is not restricted to the temple, but also in nature."

The dual nature of rain is also present in the cosmology of the Aztecs who named their rain god Tlaloc. Worshiped alongside the sun god Huitzilopochtli in the great Aztec temple, Tlaloc was portrayed as both fearsome and beautiful with royal-blue skin, circular eyes made of serpents and thick, red fangs.

The name Tlaloc means "He who makes things sprout," which in itself indicates a type of violence, said Davíd Carrasco, a historian of religions at Harvard University.

"What do seeds do when they sprout? They break open," he said. "And what do the rains do? They break open the Earth. So there is this sense of genesis with this great water, but you can't regenerate the world unless the world has come to an end. We don't like it, but that's the way it is."

The themes of violence and regeneration around water continue to resonate as California braces for yet more rain.

"In a battle to subdue nature, we are not going to win," Savage said. "We can keep trying to tech our way out of it or build our way out of it, but we're not going to win."

As for praying for rain, sometimes that's not just the purview of clerics and faith traditions. In 2011, as Texas weathered a punishing drought, Gov. Rick Perry, an evangelical Christian, declared April 22 to 24 as "Days of Prayer for Rain."

"I urge Texans of all faiths and traditions," he declared, "to offer prayers on that day for the healing of our land, the rebuilding of our communities and the restoration of our normal and robust way of life."

The prayers were not immediately successful, and the percentage of the state experiencing exceptional drought more than doubled over the following month.

It was another sage reminder that while humans can try to intercede with their gods to bring the rain, or make it stop, there are some forces in the world that are eternally beyond our control.

A threat percolating up from just beneath the surface

[**Maps,** from A1]
many jurisdictions that researchers hope will undergo this intensive data-refining process.

The maps build on a new but growing body of research. In 2020, another study led by the U.S. Geological Survey laid the groundwork for this issue along California's 1,200-mile coast, and state toxic substances control officials have since started their own mapping efforts to better understand how rising groundwater might affect contaminated land.

Similar research into vulnerable communities in Southern California is now also being conducted by a team led by Cal State Long Beach and Cal State Northridge.

This emerging flood risk raises many tough questions, but the data so far make clear the need for urgent action.

"We really need to focus on where contaminants may be mobilized by rising groundwater, because that could have an immediate impact on a 6-year-old, or a pregnant woman, or someone who has extra vulnerability in their immune system," said Kristina Hill, a UC Berkeley researcher who has been particularly concerned about underserved communities like Marin City and historically industrial areas like East Oakland, where much of the soil is contaminated. "This [remobilization] could be happening *now* while it's wet outside."

When talking about groundwater, there are two types to keep in mind: One, the kind researchers are now worried about, is the unconfined water that gathers in the pore spaces of soil very close to the surface. This is the water that runs off streets and soaks into the ground. The other type, confined in aquifers many hundreds of feet deep, is the water that we tap for drinking.

When the tide moves inland, the shallow freshwater tends to float on top of the denser saltwater — and gets pushed upward toward the surface as sea levels rise. Because the shallow groundwater is not consumed, few people have studied this layer of water in California.

Hill, who directs the Institute of Urban and Regional Development at UC Berkeley, first realized almost a decade ago that this shallow groundwater layer had been overlooked in sea level rise conversations. Together with May and Ellen Plane, who is now an environmental scientist at SFEI, she analyzed data from 10,000 wells across the Bay Area and concluded more than twice as much land could flood from groundwater as the ocean continued to rise.

Then, in a remarkable move to turn these first approximation studies into data that government agencies would actually use, the researchers called on the officials themselves to help fill in the data gaps. City and county staff tracked down geotechnical reports and other possibly useful records that had been archived in various (and often siloed) departments. They sifted through hundreds of PDFs and spreadsheets to compile all the underground data that had been gathered for construction permits and projects.

Public works staff then vetted the updated maps with their own observations — such as storm drains that back up during high tide and roads that tend to flood even when it's not pouring.

Photographs by JOSH EDELSON AFP/Getty Images

VEHICLES TRAVEL on a road flooded by seawater in Mill Valley in 2022. Groundwater just a few feet or even inches below ground gets pushed upward as denser water from the ocean moves inland from rising tides.

REED FREIDINGER walks his dog along a flooded bike path in Mill Valley during a king tide last year.

Patterns emerged. Many of the communities most exposed to flooding were built along historical creeks or on top of filled-in wetlands. When you overlay 5.5 feet of sea level rise on the map, the water is projected to move back in to essentially every wetland area that has been filled.

Officials in San Francisco are already taking the data into account as they consider new building projects. Other cities and counties are starting to rethink their flood-protection options — a traditional levee or seawall, after all, would do nothing to stop the groundwater as it moves with the rising sea.

Ultimately, officials need to figure out what to do with all the contaminated sites along the bay that are still awaiting cleanup — or those that need to be further remediated, said Hill, who has been finalizing another set of maps that will show where, and in which direction, rising groundwater might remobilize harmful chemicals underground. The oft-used approach of "capping" a toxic waste site rather than actually removing the contamination from the soil, for example, may no longer be sufficient.

Regulators at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board have been following all this research with great interest and are already diving into the updated maps, said Assistant Executive Officer Lisa Horowitz McCann. The board recently ordered 16 bayfront landfills to account for groundwater rise in their long-term flood protection plans, and caseworkers are now going through hundreds of cases to figure out which sites need further action.

"This data further empowers — and actually legally supports — stronger actions that we can take," Horowitz McCann said. "We're looking at a bigger universe of cases now."

Researchers hope to continue this mapping work for the rest of the Bay Area. Next up is Contra Costa County in the East Bay, where a number of historically contaminated sites are being considered for redevelopment along the industrialized shoreline of Richmond.

A lot more work also needs to be done to understand what the actual damage will look like for gas lines, septic systems, foundations and other buried infrastructure, said Patrick Barnard, whose research team at the U.S. Geological Survey has done extensive flood modeling that is used by officials across the state.

"We need to start merging this information with the engineering world," he said. "We built everything assuming the soil is dry ... what does it mean to have it now be saturated all the time?"

Barnard has also been studying what scientists are starting to call "compound extremes." What do we do when seawater is trying to push in during a high tide, at the same time our rivers and storm drains are trying to flush excess rainwater into the ocean, and the ground can't absorb anything because the groundwater is also flooding?

"We looked at this in one case for the Napa River, and basically, your average annual winter storm could turn into the 100-year flood event if the ground is already saturated," he said. "Add any amount of rain on top of it, even amounts that are not usually catastrophic ... and they turn into catastrophic impacts."

For Chris Choo, the planning manager for Marin County, helping the latest mapping effort has been eye-opening in more ways than one. She has spent years helping communities plan for climate change, and the challenges have only gotten more complicated the more each disaster seems to overwhelm the next.

"We went from drought, drought, drought and being really worried that we don't have enough water, to suddenly, within two weeks, seeing the impacts of having way too much of it," she said, noting not just the flooded roads that have kept her colleagues working around the clock, but also the powerful surf that ripped through much of California earlier this month and even split a pier in two.

"People still tend to think of these things as isolated terrible things, rather than as part of a collective shift ... in what the future might hold," she said.

"We live in nature and too often think of ourselves as separate from it ... but nature is still very much in charge."

JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

ON THE Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Lola Weiselman, 7, of Pacific Palisades brought her rain boots to help her brave the flooded Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area after a weekend of rain in the region.

Storms may be waning, but caution still advised

One more system is forecast, but it won't be as powerful

BY ROSANNA XIA

As the skies begin to clear and a relentless series of atmospheric rivers starts to move out, Californians are finally catching a break as they assess the aftermath of weeks of downed trees, landslides and devastating flooding.

River levels are receding in some areas, top climate officials reported in a briefing Monday, and the worst of the rain appears to be over.

One more storm system is forecast to roll through California on Wednesday, said State Climatologist Mike Anderson, but it won't pack as much of a punch as the previous ones.

The rain, which isn't expected to hit farther south than Santa Barbara, appears barely strong enough to qualify as an atmospheric river.

But officials caution the public to remain vigilant. Landslides, sinkholes and other hazards could still strike because the ground has received such a soaking, and tree branches — dried up from years of drought and whiplashed by high winds — remain a deadly hazard.

On Saturday, a woman was struck dead by a falling branch in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, bringing the total number of storm-related deaths statewide to at least 20.

Flood watches from the National Weather Service remain in effect for some parts of the Bay Area and Central Coast, and a number of rivers in Southern California are forecast to reach close-to-flood levels this week as excess water makes its way down the watershed.

The twice-annual "king tide," an exceptionally high tide that occurs when the sun, moon and Earth are in gravitational alignment, is also expected to bring high water levels to the coast this weekend.

Across the state, some roads remain so damaged that it will take weeks to clean up and months to repair them.

As evacuees return to their homes and businesses,

[See **Storms,** B2]

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

CALTRANS EMPLOYEES work to reopen State Route 39 after mudslides and rockslides closed the road in both directions near Morris Dam in Azusa.

Helicopters evacuate residents of isolated Ventura County town

By Melody Gutierrez

Andre Christou watched as the storms that have drenched much of California over the last two weeks turned from serene to scary in the remote wooded community of Matilija Canyon in Los Padres National Forest. She listened to a swollen creek push boulders down the canyon and saw its muddy, rushing waters swallow trees like sticks.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office said 17 inches of rainfall over the course of one week left "towering piles of rock and mud" as high as 40 feet in some locations, blocking the single road into and out of the canyon. A part of Matilija Canyon Road collapsed into a raging creek below. Last week, Christou joined other residents who were evacuated by a Ventura County Sheriff's Office helicopter.

"We have been staying with friends in town until we find a way to return back home," said Christou, 56, adding that it's unclear when that will be. "We've turned into nomads for a bit."

She's among more than 70 residents who were evacuated by helicopter from Matilija Canyon, according to the Sher-

[See **Evacuated,** B5]

Ventura County Sheriff's Office

THE VENTURA COUNTY Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team airlifts Matilija Canyon residents after flooding cut off the access road.

Nine are saved from swift waters

Twin storms that hit San Diego County over the weekend produced more rain than anticipated. **B2**

Traffic deaths in L.A. reach 20-year high, outpacing U.S.

Pedestrians, cyclists most at risk despite prevention efforts.

BY DAKOTA SMITH

Traffic deaths climbed again in Los Angeles last year, with 300 people killed on city streets — the highest number in at least two decades, city officials said.

According to Los Angeles Police Department data, 312 people were killed in traffic collisions last year, 5% more than in 2021 and a 29% increase over 2020.

L.A.'s streets remain particularly deadly for pedestrians and bicyclists, with 159 people killed in collisions involving pedestrians and motorists, a 19% rise compared with 2021, and 20 people killed in collisions involving bicyclists and motorists, an 11% rise.

The traffic carnage in L.A. in 2022 outpaced national trends.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that fatalities from traffic crashes were essentially flat nationwide in the first nine months of 2022 compared with 2021. Fatalities among cyclists and pedestrians rose nationwide last year but were lower than the percentage rise seen in L.A.

The L.A. figures dismayed activist groups, which have long urged City Hall to devote more funding and staff toward Vision Zero, the city's program to end traffic fatalities by 2025.

"It's frustrating and infuriating," said Damian Kevitt, executive director of the nonprofit group Streets Are for Everyone. "All of these fatalities are preventable."

Connie Llanos, interim general manager of the L.A. Transportation Department, said Angelenos need to "recognize that how we drive can either save lives or take them." Such fatalities disproportionately involve children, seniors, and the unhoused in communities of color and poor neighborhoods, Llanos said.

"No one should accept this," she said.

According to the Police Department, the "greatest-risk intersections" in 2022 were Soto Street and Washington Boulevard in South L.A., Florence and Vermont

[See **Fatalities,** B4]

Some parents want masks mandatory on L.A. campuses

Fears are high in poor communities that face greater risks from triple surge of viruses.

BY ALEJANDRA REYES-VELARDE AND HOWARD BLUME

At the first sign of a sniffle or stormy weather ahead Lourdes Lopez keeps her 10-year-old daughter, Alison, home from school.

Alison has Down syndrome and is more vulnerable to illness. A cold can be a major hardship, Lopez said, not only for her daughter but her entire family living in an overcrowded apartment in South Los Angeles.

Once again this winter, Lopez is feeling a dreadful sense of déjà vu. She doesn't feel that her daughter is safe at school, especially with masking optional and no universal coronavirus testing in Los Angeles schools. Alison has missed enough days that school officials have met with Lopez to discuss the absences.

"I know that if she misses class, she falls behind," she said. But Lopez can't justify risking her daughter's health. "I told them that day that they have to help, too."

Lopez's concerns typify the voices of many Los Angeles parents who are navigating another troubling winter of health worries. Not only do they remain deeply concerned about ongoing COVID-19 school outbreaks, but rampant flu cases and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, have compounded their fears. Among many low-income or multifamily households, anxiety has been heightened during the return from winter break, as a contagious virus that enters their home threatens not only the health of their child but their financial stability and well-being.

Lopez and a group of Latino parents recently met on Zoom to air concerns and discuss a plan of action. The parents prepared demands to send to the superintendent and school board members, including a plea for mandatory masking for at least January. The group also asked the district to reestablish on-campus weekly coronavirus testing.

"As parents who advocate for an equitable quality public education and safe school campuses, we're concerned about a return to school without any clear preventative health protocols in place by L.A. Unified to protect our children from acquiring a respiratory virus infection," wrote the group, comprising largely Spanish-speaking parents from East and South Los Angeles.

A week into the new semester, the group, Our Voice: Communities for Quality Education, has not yet received a direct response from the district. But in a Jan. 9 news conference, Supt. Alberto Carvalho took

[See **Masks,** B5]

L.A. celebrates King holiday with pageantry

Kingdom Day Parade returns to Leimert Park after a three-year hiatus. See the images from the gala event. **B3**

EBT fraud hits many on welfare

Thousands of San Diego food stamp and welfare recipients are struggling with bills as cards get hacked. **B4**

Lottery **B2**

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Sam Farmer analyzes NFL divisional-round playoff picture. **B10**

Nine saved from twin storms' swift waters

People are stranded as heavy rain produces flooding, debris flows in San Diego County.

By Gary Robbins

At least nine people were rescued Monday in three swift-water incidents in San Diego County, which is experiencing tremendous runoff from back-to-back storms that turned out to be stronger than expected.

The latest storm, which arrived Sunday night and will last into Tuesday, also has produced debris flows and flooding throughout the region, the National Weather Service said.

The largest rescue involved seven people who became stuck on a small island in fast-moving water near 4700 Pacific Highway in San Diego just after 9 a.m.

Some victims ended up in the water. Rescue crews quickly moved the people to safety.

About two hours earlier, an unidentified person got caught in swift waters flowing through the Otay Lakes area east of Chula Vista.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said it found a vehicle in the water with the person on top.

The person was rescued and released after an assessment by paramedic crews.

Around 6 a.m., a swift water team rescued a woman whose car entered the San Diego River in Mission Valley. The car was in about 2 feet of water.

That area received 2 to 3 inches of water over a 24-hour period, and the river was at flood stage — 12.77 feet, the weather service said.

The storm also triggered a debris flow along Highway 78 near Julian, blocking both lanes of traffic, the weather service said.

Flooding also was a factor in the closure of a portion of Discovery Street in San Marcos, Harmony Grove Road in Escondido and Central Avenue near Bonita.

It also closed part of a popular horse trail in Carmel Valley.

The Alliance San Diego's 35th Annual All Peoples Celebration in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was held as scheduled at the Balboa Park Activity Center, but information tables were moved inside.

The county also has been affected by powerful winds.

The weather service said a downed tree slowed traffic at Valley Center Road and Mac Tan Road in Valley Center.

The area was hit by nearly 2 inches of rain over a 24-hour period and winds gusting nearly 30 mph.

Since late Sunday, the weather service has reported gusts to 74 mph on Palomar Mountain, 48 mph at Camp Pendleton, 44 mph at North Island and 39 mph at San Diego International Airport.

As for rainfall, through 9:18 a.m. Monday, the two storms had dropped 10.62 inches of rain on Palomar Mountain, 7.31 inches at Lake Cuyamaca, 7.16 inches at Lake Henshaw, 6.32 inches at Otay Mountain, 6.08 inches at Mount Laguna, 5.72 inches at Lake Wohlford and 5.30 inches at Escondido.

The storm also dropped 3.96 inches at Santee, 3.86 inches at National City, 3.81 inches at Encinitas, 3.61 inches at San Onofre and 2.58 inches at San Diego International Airport.

On the coast, a high surf advisory will be in effect through 10 p.m. Tuesday. The waves have been slamming beaches for days.

"A slight decrease in surf is possible on Monday before another west swell (though with a slightly shorter period) produces more elevated to high surf Monday night through Tuesday, mostly remaining below 10 feet," the weather service said.

"The surf will gradually lower Tuesday night and Wednesday, with no high surf expected the rest of the week."

Robbins writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune. Union-Tribune staff writer Lauren J. Mapp and City News Service contributed to this report.

Photographs by K.C. Alfred San Diego Union-Tribune

A CAR SITS partially submerged Monday after rescuers saved a woman whose car entered the San Diego River in San Diego's Mission Valley neighborhood. The area had received 2 to 3 inches of rain over a 24-hour period, and the San Diego River was at flood stage.

'The surf will gradually lower Tuesday night and Wednesday, with no high surf expected the rest of the week.'

— National Weather Service

PEOPLE examine the area where the driver was saved. The largest rescue Monday involved seven people.

Slides, sinkholes and other hazards still a threat

[**Storms,** from B1]

the full extent of the flood damage will come to light in the coming days.

Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order on Monday to bolster staffing for emergency responses, and President Biden is expected to visit the Central Coast later this week to assess what additional federal support is needed.

"Local flood managers across the state still have some work to do as the water recedes," said Jeremy Arrich, who manages the flood division at the California Department of Water Resources.

Arrich noted that in the last two weeks, the state's Flood Operations Center has delivered almost 1 million sandbags and deployed staff to 50 incidents to help with broken levees, erosion and sinkholes.

"Maintaining agencies will need to inspect and patrol their levees to look for any damage that may have occurred ... and then evaluate any long-term repairs that may be necessary," he said.

As for the ongoing drought, state water officials were cautiously optimistic in a briefing on Monday.

They noted that the snowpack — a critical bank of water for the state during dry summer months — is at "epic levels" and that Lake Oroville, the largest reservoir in the State Water Project, has risen 120 feet since early December and is now at 101% of its historical average for this time of year.

A few other reservoirs across the state have filled up so much in recent weeks that officials have had to release some water from them.

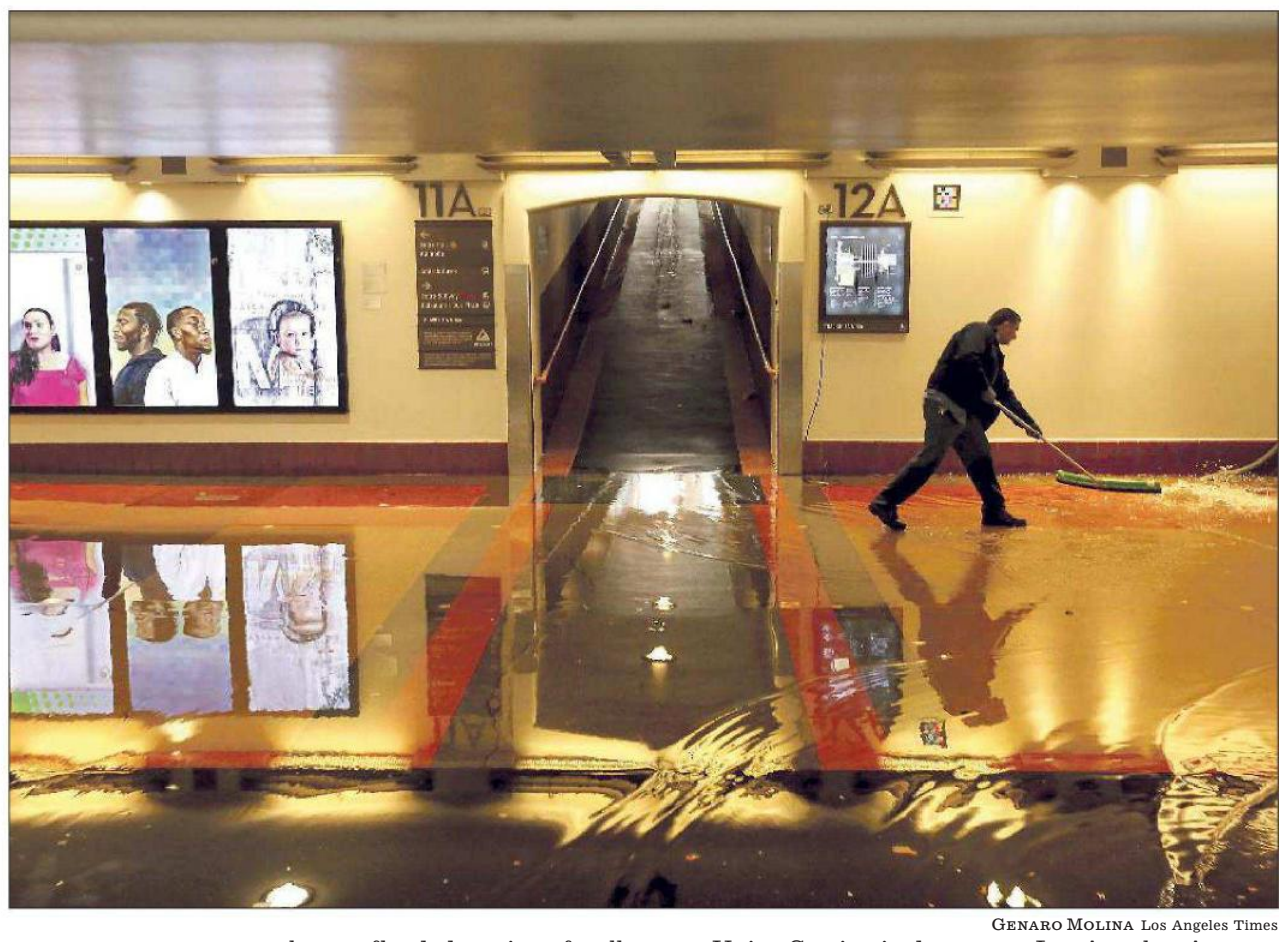
That said, two of California's most critical reservoirs — Lake Shasta, at 51% of total capacity, and Trinity Lake, at 29% — still have a long way to go before getting back to average conditions, officials said.

Communities across the Southwest largely relying on the Colorado River are also still very much in drought.

Anderson, the state climatologist, noted that unlike last winter, which began with some intense bursts of rain and then quickly dried out, another wet spell could possibly hit this winter because the infamously dry La Niña climate cycle appears to be transitioning back into neutral conditions.

But for now, Californians can look forward to at least two weeks of clear skies. When Anderson pulled up a precipitation map for the rest of the month, not a storm was in sight.

"First time we've seen that in a long time," he said. "No precipitation forecast for anywhere in the state."



Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

A METRO WORKER clears a flooded section of walkway at Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. Across the state, some roads remain so damaged that it will take weeks to clean up and months to repair them.

Lottery results

Tonight's Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $20 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

For Monday, Jan. 16, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

4-14-33-39-61—**Powerball 3**
Jackpot: $416 million

Fantasy Five: 2-16-31-34-38

Daily Four: 1-3-7-6

Daily Three (midday): 1-5-2

Daily Three (evening): 3-7-1

Daily Derby:
(10) Solid Gold
(8) Gorgeous George
(3) Hot Shot
Race time: 1:45.80

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

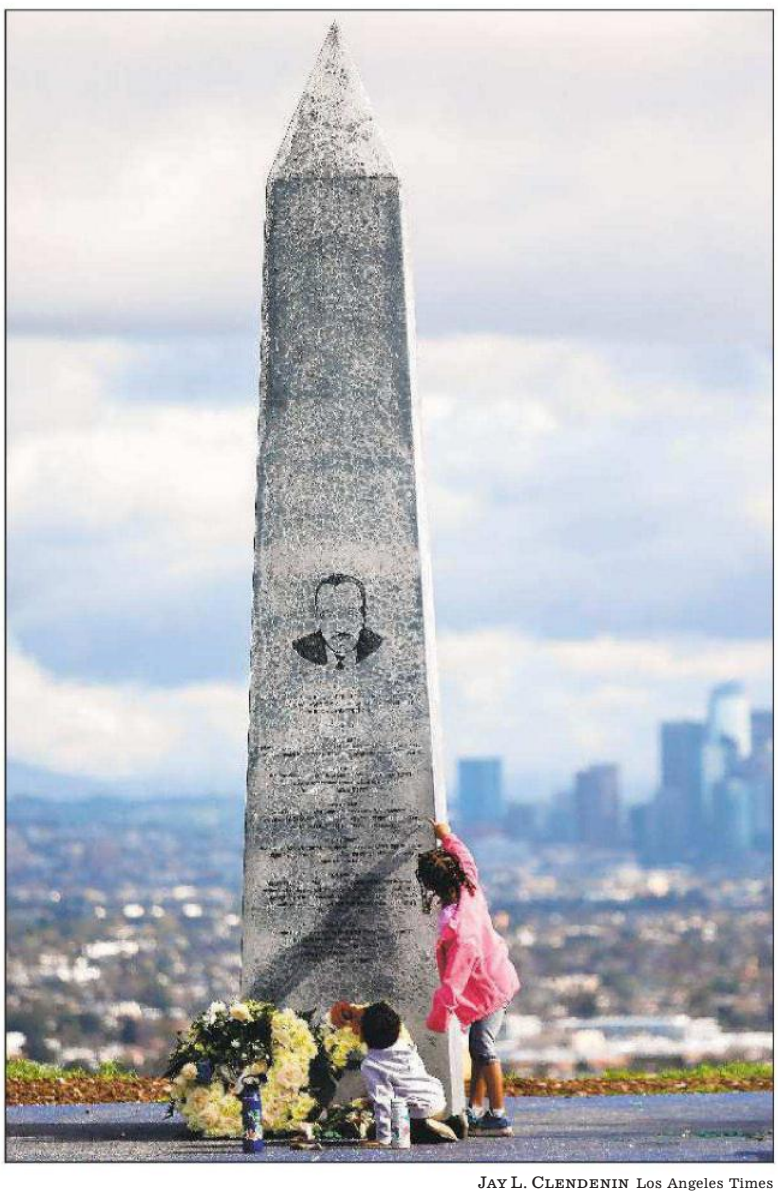
CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

APRIL TARDY of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department gets a hug from 3-year-old Illy during the 38th annual Kingdom Day Parade in Leimert Park.

'Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that'

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Los Angeles shows his dream is alive and forever worthwhile

CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times



JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

CLOCKWISE from above, the Korean Dance Company, presented by Kim Eung Hwa, performs Monday at the Leimert Park parade.

OLIVIA COLMERY, 8, points out a portrait of King to her brother Benjamin, 3, at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

NARNIA BLACKWELL, 15, flanked by Moiya-Marie Callahan, 13, left, and Laila Kane, cheer on a friend in the Leimert Park parade.

CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

18+

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

Surge in EBT fraud puts families in a bind

Amid a rise in hacks of aid debit cards, advocates press for better safeguards.

By Jeff McDonald

Nelvin C. Cepeda San Diego Union-Tribune

VOLUNTEER Nicholas Murphy loads vehicles at a food distribution event in Chula Vista in December. Some people whose EBT cards were hacked have used food banks to meet their needs while they report the theft.

The challenge of feeding her children has never been simple for Brittany Moats, a single mother of three from La Mesa.

Things got easier a couple of years ago, when Moats qualified for almost $750 a month in food stamps from the county Health and Human Services Agency. But when she bought a pizza last month, she noticed the balance on her account was close to zero.

"I hurried up and called the number on my card and was listening to all the transactions, but I didn't do them," she said. "I filed a dispute and eventually got refunded, but then it happened again this month."

Moats is one of thousands of people in San Diego County who have seen their electronic benefit cards hacked since September.

The crime wave of nearly 5,000 hacks into EBT accounts — electronic benefit transfers — has left thousands of victims struggling to find food and others unable to pay rent or other bills.

County officials said they are aware of the problem and working with families to restore their benefits. They are also helping local, state and federal law enforcement agencies investigate.

"This is being conducted by a sophisticated crime ring," said Michael Workman, a San Diego County spokesperson. "This crime activity is most frequent at the beginning of the month, after public assistance benefits are loaded to the EBT cards."

County health officials said they first began receiving reports of missing funds in the late summer last year.

Clients in the CalFresh and CalWorks programs administered by the Health and Human Services Agency began alerting caseworkers days after funds were electronically added to their debit cards.

CalFresh is the state's food stamp program, known nationally as SNAP, for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The CalWorks program provides cash relief and other services to families with children.

In most of the thefts, county workers responded by requesting a client disclosure attesting that specific charges were not incurred, then closing out the accounts and issuing new cards.

But that process can take days, and clients say they struggled to pay for groceries and other expenses during the time it took to process the reports and award new benefits.

"We just have to borrow food from my mom," Moats said. "If it goes on much longer, what are we going to do? How are we going to eat? We depend on this."

County officials say the organized hacks are not limited to San Diego. Workman said public agencies up and down the state have reported similar thefts in recent months. Social workers are doing their best to speed up processing of new EBT cards, he said.

"This issue has nothing at all to do with the recipients of the public assistance benefits," Workman said. "We have been regularly communicating with our customers about this issue."

The San Diego FBI field office said the thefts are a state matter and referred law enforcement questions to the state social services agency.

The California Department of Social Services, which distributes food stamps, said it has been working to control the thefts and also to improve the systems it relies on to deliver benefits.

calls, and in-person reports at the county Family Resource Centers can take hours.

Another food stamp beneficiary, who asked not to be identified for fear of losing her benefits for speaking out, said her monthly allowance was drained within hours of being loaded onto her card.

"I went to go shopping, and my card got declined," said the woman, who lives near Lemon Grove. "They spent the whole $281."

At the Family Resource Center in El Cajon, where social workers process applications for food stamps and other public assistance, the victimized woman said she was told it would take days or longer to reinstate her benefits.

"I said, 'How are you supposed to eat until then?' " she said. "They said I have to go to a food bank."

Food stamps are awarded under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and are distributed in California by individual counties under the Department of Social Services.

Once qualified, beneficiaries are awarded a card that resembles a typical debit card, although they are not affiliated with banks or credit unions.

That's an important distinction, because private financial institutions have improved security in their electronic payment systems by adding microchips to millions of credit and debit cards across the world.

Shelly Dieu, manager of the San Diego Hunger Coalition, said her organization has seen a notable increase in fraud claims in recent months.

She said the nonprofit urges clients to track their balances and check their online accounts as often as possible, because resolving the problem and reclaiming the benefits can be difficult and time-consuming.

"It's difficult to know when benefits are stolen because not everyone goes to the grocery store all the time, and not everyone is checking so intently," Dieu said.

Once robbed, "the processing time can take 10 days," Dieu said. "Right now, the county has been quite inundated, so it's taking a little longer than that."

Advocacy groups like the Western Center on Law and Poverty are pressing policymakers to upgrade EBT cards.

"Updating the card technology is critical to protecting recipients who we know are going hungry and need assistance in meeting their basic needs," said Christopher Sanchez, a policy director at the center.

Traffic death toll highest in 20 years

[**Fatalities,** from B1]

avenues in South L.A., Balboa Boulevard and Saticoy Street in Lake Balboa and Cahuenga Boulevard and Selma Avenue in Hollywood.

A spokesperson for the city transportation department said 242 people were killed in collisions in 2003, the first year that data were readily available.

In 2015 — the year that then-Mayor Eric Garcetti unveiled Vision Zero — 186 people died in collisions.

The Vision Zero program is predicated on the belief that fatal traffic collisions can be prevented through engineering and education. The program has proved effective in Europe, where it began in Sweden more than two decades ago, and in New York City, which adopted it in 2014.

New York City officials reported this month that overall traffic fatalities fell in 2022 by 6.6%, while pedestrian fatalities fell by 6.3%. Overall, traffic deaths have fallen by a third since the year before Vision Zero began, according to the city.

Michael Schneider, chief executive of the advocacy group Streets for All, is among those calling for L.A. to stop paying "lip service" to Vision Zero and make real infrastructure changes. He said L.A.'s streets are designed for drivers' convenience, be it through parking stalls or speed limits.

"If we want these numbers to come down, we have to build our streets to first protect lives," Schneider said.

Gary Coronado Los Angeles Times

A MEMORIAL along the 8800 block of Broadway remembers Trina Newman, who was killed by a car on Christmas Eve while she was dropping off gifts.

> 'This crime activity is most frequent at the beginning of the month, after public assistance benefits are loaded to the EBT cards.'
>
> — Michael Workman, a San Diego County spokesperson

"This past June, Card Verification Value functionality for all EBT cards was recently enabled, which added an additional layer of security to help mitigate EBT theft," Social Services spokesperson Jason Montiel said in a statement.

The state agency also recently received a $740,000 grant to study ways to reduce fraud, and Gov. Gavin Newsom just included $50 million for EBT theft prevention in his new budget, Montiel said.

According to state data, California counties reimbursed CalWorks beneficiaries almost $30 million between July 2021 and September 2022 — including $4 million in September last year.

Counties returned almost $5 million to food stamp recipients over the same 15-month period, with more than $2 million rebated in August and September of last year.

Montiel said the thefts amount to less than 1% of the $3.2 billion in CalWorks allotments and just 0.04% of $11.2 billion in food assistance over the 15 months.

Multiple criminal inquiries also are underway. "Once investigations have been completed, additional details will be available," Montiel said.

Victims say when they report the hacks, the phone lines are often clogged with

"There absolutely needs to be a minimum standard that ensures these protections while ensuring that clients are able to use these benefits without interruption," he said.

San Diego County has struggled for years to provide food stamp benefits to eligible residents.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported in 2006 that the region enrolled barely 25% of people who qualify — at the time the lowest enrollment of any large U.S. city.

Under pressure from social service providers and others, the Board of Supervisors directed public health officials to do a better job promoting the program and relax some of the local policies that had contributed to the low enrollment.

The marketing and application changes have boosted the number of people in San Diego now receiving CalFresh benefits.

According to the state Department of Social Services, some 388,000 people in San Diego County were receiving monthly benefits as of November — almost 1 in every 8 residents.

Out of almost 18,000 applications received that month, however, just over 10,000 were approved.

McDonald writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

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The Los Angeles County Fire Department is soliciting proposals from qualified companies interested in providing Cardiovascular Evaluation Program Services.

To obtain solicitation documents, please contact Carlos Santiago at Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov.

The proposal submission deadline is February 3, 2023, by 6:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

NO PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE.
CN993343
23MA07ADM
Jan 15,16,17, 2023

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the follow property: One black ZTE model Z222 cell phone, one blue Verizon Samsung model SM-B311V, one blue LG model LGMS450 cellular telephone, one blue LG model LGMS450 cellular telephone, one silver iPhone 6 model A1586 cellular telephone, one black LG model LGMS695 cellular telephone, and one Verizon LG model LG-VN350 cellular telephone. The property was at 15040 Vanoween St., Apt 203, Van Nuys, CA on September 14, 2016 and is available for return. Any person interested in claiming the property

Legal Notices

must file a claim with DEA Los Angeles Field Division within 30 days from first publication date. Drug Enforcement Administration, Los Angeles Field Division, 255 East Temple St., 17th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Attention Christopher Sinclair. Otherwise it will be abandoned & disposed of in accordance with 41 C.F.R 128-48

Published in the Los Angeles Times on: January 10, 17, 24/2023

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Fictitious Business Name Statement NO.: test tesets
The following person is doing business as:
Fictitious Business Name(s) . **Registered Owner** (S): . **Business is conducted by:** . The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on . I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime) **REGISTRANT/CORP/LLC NAME:** . **Signature:** . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of County on . **NOTICE**- in accordance with subdivision (a)of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal state or common law (see section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions code). , County Clerk. BY: , Deputy. Published 12/27/22, 01/03/23, 01/10/23, 01/17/23.

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Get out of here!
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1/17
AFTER THE BIRDS INTERRUPTED THE FILMING OF THE MOVIE, THEY ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ____ THE _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIS LOFTY PRETTY BATTEN
Answer: The tennis players had arrived at the court and were — SET TO PLAY

Some parents want mandatory masking

[**Masks,** from B1]
on what he referred to as "misinformation, disinformation, confusion and unwarranted fear."

He said influenza and RSV are currently bigger threats to children than COVID, adding, "with that said, prevention is the best medicine. So mask up. We're recommending the masking of students and employees." He also blamed misinformation for depressing vaccination levels for COVID and other diseases: "This is the time to get yourself and your children vaccinated. It is the best measure of prevention."

Carvalho's approach has won praise from a different contingent of parents who oppose mandatory masks in schools.

But members of the Our Voice group say his insistence on voluntary measures marginalizes their concerns.

The district's current approach to COVID is reflected in county health department guidance. Schools no longer report individual coronavirus cases but still are supposed to report clusters of three or more potentially related cases, said Barbara Ferrer, L.A. County's public health director. The reliability can be compromised because of inconsistent testing and reporting, and the reality that many children have no symptoms or mild symptoms.

Even so, there was a gradual rise in reported clusters over the fall and a sharp spike in December — consistent with past surges that followed family gatherings over Thanksgiving. In the first week of October, for example, there were 27 clusters in schools and youth programs countywide. The figure was 64 the week before Thanksgiving and 226 in the last full week before winter break.

While the precise number of cases and clusters is likely to be underreported, the spike itself is telling, Ferrer said.

L.A. Unified is still gathering data on COVID infections — and has a policy asking parents and employees to upload positive test results to a tracking system, but compliance is optional. County officials have the same tracking problem — testing is not widespread and coronavirus cases are not necessarily reported.

Carvalho's reliance on optional masking puts Los Angeles Unified in line with most school systems. Earlier in the pandemic, the district enforced strict testing rules longer than most school systems, imposed an employee vaccine mandate and tried unsuccessfully to require students to get vaccines, attracting some vocal critics.

CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

L.A. UNIFIED students on the first day of school in August. Many Los Angeles parents are navigating another winter of health worries, including outbreaks of the coronavirus, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus. Some are asking for masks to be mandatory.

"The mask mandates and the testing were a complete waste of our tax dollars," said parent Jenny Zepp, a Westside parent. "So much learning, mental/physical/emotional health was lost."

"COVID should now be treated as you would any other virus," district parent Carrie Kangro said. "I don't think we should even be testing for it anymore. If you're sick, stay home. If not, carry on. And get vaccinated."

Her view was not far off from that of L.A. Unified medical director Dr. Smita Malhotra.

"Thanks to science, thanks to vaccinations, thanks to therapeutics," Malhotra said at the news conference, "we are now in a place where COVID-19 ... is similar to ... RSV and flu. And so, as we have entered this new season of high respiratory illnesses, we're treating this like we have treated all of the respiratory viruses."

Malhotra, who also defended the district's earlier approach as correct for that time, strongly urged masking, though without a mandate.

One local charter school group is going against the current grain. KIPP SoCal returned to mandatory masking early in December at its 24 local campuses. KIPP schools are in low-income minority communities hit especially hard by COVID.

LAUSD parents who live in vulnerable communities say the district needs to do as KIPP did.

"The pandemic hasn't passed," Lopez said. "There are more viruses coming very strong."

Lopez said she feels mandatory masking would be a simple way to protect the most vulnerable.

In her community, MLK Community Hospital is struggling against the tripledemic of flu, RSV and COVID-19.

Lopez, 39, lives in a two-bedroom apartment her family shares with her brother-in-law. She, her husband and her three children live in one of the bedrooms. If her husband, who has diabetes, gets sick and can't go to work, he doesn't get paid, and bills don't get paid, she said.

Lopez's experience is common within low-income communities, reflecting the outsized effect of serious illness.

Since campuses reopened universally in the fall of 2021, voluntary mask wearing has generally been more widespread at schools where there is a higher enrollment of Latino and Black students from low-income families, according to parents and teachers — and also based on visits to campuses. When COVID transmission is higher, these groups continue to suffer worse health consequences, Ferrer said.

Maria Baños, 43, lives in a small one-bedroom apartment in South L.A. with her husband and four children.

"I live in a vulnerable community," Baños said. "I've seen, around me, many cases and personally I've had COVID-19 three times. And my wish is that my children don't go through that. Unfortunately, even if we take precautions ... cases happen daily. If COVID-19 is in the community, it's in the schools."

Baños said she's concerned about how much class time her children are missing due to getting sick.

She sends her kids to school healthy, and they seem to come back with fevers, Baños said. The teachers send them home sick sometimes, and tell her not to worry; they will help them get back on track. But, she said, even as school officials press for good attendance, she doesn't feel her children get much help.

"To me it's another pandemic, because we have [the] Omicron [variant], the flu and RSV. I'm worried my children will have one of those illnesses and that they'll have to stay home. Even if the school says they'll help, the reality is if they fall behind, they fall behind."

Absences remain a problem. Since November the L.A. Unified attendance rate has been about 89%, below the pre-pandemic rate of 95% or better. Chronic absenteeism remains high, with about 2 in 5 students missing 10% or more of classes.

"I don't like to hide ugly truths," Carvalho said at the news conference. "We have improved chronic absenteeism.... That's still not enough."

Baños said she especially fears getting sick because, as an immigrant, she doesn't know what would become of her children if she can't take care of them.

"If I report to the hospital that I'm sick, where would they take me? Who would take care of my children? That's my fear," she said.

Recently elected L.A. school board member Rocio Rivas, who represents East L.A. and parts of central L.A., echoed Carvalho in urging parents to use free at-home coronavirus tests provided by L.A. Unified.

Rivas, a district parent, added that she plans to assess whether stricter measures may be necessary for the next time students come back from a vacation period.

"We need to be more proactive in taking preventative measures. As a parent, I share the legitimate concerns of other parents."

"We have to be as diplomatic and democratic as possible," Rivas said. "Everyone's concerns are legitimate whether you want to wear a mask or not. The concern is our social responsibility; we have to take care of each other."

Airlifted to safety from Matilija Canyon

[**Evacuated,** from B1]
iff's Office. Ventura County Public Works estimates that it could take three weeks to clear the road and six more months to fully repair it.

"I know there are some people that chose to stay," Christou said. "They have been living there forever, and they are not about to abandon their homes. They fend for everyone in the community, looking after their houses and pets."

The storms are expected to move out after showers and high winds Monday. Southern California should see dry conditions beginning Tuesday, while San Francisco, Sacramento and other northern areas of the state will probably have to wait until Thursday.

California has been hit since Christmas by atmospheric river storms, which caused widespread flooding, rockfalls, landslides and fallen trees. The death toll from the storms continues to rise, to more than 20. Over the weekend, an elderly woman was found dead next to a fallen tree branch in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park after a period of high winds and substantial rain.

On Monday, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order to bolster staffing for emergency response, waive fees for residents who need to replace vital records such as birth certificates and provide additional support for healthcare facilities in the state and flooded schools in Merced County.

The Biden administration on Saturday approved Newsom's request for a presidential disaster declaration, which will provide funding for recovery from the flooding, mudslides and landslides in California.

Ventura County Sheriff's Office

THE ONLY access road to Matilija Canyon collapsed, leaving residents unable to evacuate on their own.

In Ventura County, Brian Briggs said mud took out his fence and poured down his driveway. He and his son spent hours shoveling debris to get the water and muck away from his home.

"When I found the mud was coming into my yard, that's when I got scared," said Briggs, 44, an insurance adjuster who moved from Ojai to Matilija Canyon a little more than two years ago.

Like many others, Briggs and his son were evacuated by helicopter amid warnings from the sheriff.

"When we got off the helicopter, it finally hit me, and I broke down sobbing," Briggs said. "It wasn't the worst disaster in the world, but it was 36 hours of constant stress trying to help people and ourselves."

Patrick Maynard, director of Ventura County's Office of Emergency Services, said the department is in contact with the two dozen residents who opted not to leave. No one has asked for evacuation assistance in the last couple of days, he said.

"Our recommendation is still for people to leave," he said.

Maynard said Monday that the department was scheduled to fly in food for livestock that could not be evacuated. He said parts of the road into Matilija Canyon have been cleared of debris, but a massive chunk of pavement had fallen into the creek. With the weather improving, cleanup and repair efforts should speed up, he said.

"Work continues to be underway, and hopefully, with luck and God on our side, we can get access back into there," Maynard said.

Without the ability to drive into the area, some residents have hiked to their properties to check on homes and neighbors. Charity Manee said she was out of town with her husband and children when the latest storm hit, cutting off access to the property and leaving her mom stranded.

> 'They are not about to abandon their homes. They fend for everyone in the community, looking after their houses and pets.'
>
> — ANDRE CHRISTOU, describing two dozen fellow Matilija Canyon residents who chose not to evacuate

"It was pretty scary for her," Manee said. "She was watching the house and our two dogs, and the power went out. We lost contact with her for a while."

When the Sheriff's Office offered air transportation out of the canyon, Manee said, her mom left the two dogs with a neighbor and "abandoned ship as soon as possible."

Manee said her husband hiked four miles into the canyon to be with the dogs, which are a Labrador-Australian shepherd mix.

"We generally have an idea that the road could close in a large storm," Manee said. "But nobody expected the severity of this storm."

OBITUARY NOTICES

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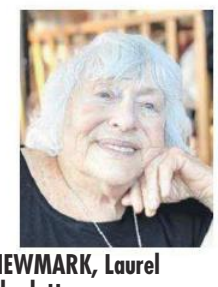
Los Angeles Times



NEWMARK, Laurel Charlotte

July 15, 1930 - January 12, 2023

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Laurel Charlotte Newmark on January 12, 2023. Laurel was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1930 to Louis and Anne Cohen. After graduation from college, Laurel taught first grade elementary school in New York City. She moved with her parents from New York to Los Angeles in the early 1950s. Laurel soon met a charming young gentleman named Richard Newmark, who had recently graduated from dental school. They married in 1954 and started a family: Ken, Dan and Lisa. Laurel enjoyed traveling the world with Richard and her children. In later years, Laurel earned a master's degree in human development, taught Israeli folk dancing, and was the director of the senior program at the local Jewish community center. Laurel and Richard were married for 39 years until Richard's death in 1993.

Laurel's generosity, curiosity and affection for others were her hallmarks. Her joyful exuberance was infectious, and she had seemingly infinite energy and a boundless enthusiasm for life. Laurel genuinely loved people. Her greatest gift was how she made one feel seen and heard. Laurel unfailingly greeted others with her characteristic warmth and empathy: "How are you?...I'm so happy to see you... What have you been doing?" She was indisputably outspoken, feisty, funny, complex, reflective, vivacious, and compassionate. Laurel was truly a luminous, radiant presence in so many of our lives.

Laurel is lovingly remembered by her children: Ken, Dan (Alice Platt) and Lisa (Rick Brenner). She is also survived by her three adoring grandchildren: Allie Cannington, Jordan Cannington and Lily Newmark, who brought so much joy to her life. Laurel will be dearly missed by numerous friends and extended family.

In remembrance of Laurel's life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to Integrated Community Services, 523 4th St., Suite 100, San Rafael, CA 94901. https://www.connectics.org/donate

Services will be held Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Hillside Memorial Park, 6001 W. Centinela Ave., Los Angeles.

To place an obituary ad please go online to:

latimes.com/placeobituary

or call 1-800-234-4444

Los Angeles Times

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Gradually drying out: The latest storm will move from the state today. There will be some areas of lingering showers, mostly during the morning, in the far south and around the mountains. High pressure will bring dry weather to all of the region tonight and Wednesday along with clearer skies for many. A weak front from the north may cause showers in spots Thursday.

5-day forecasts

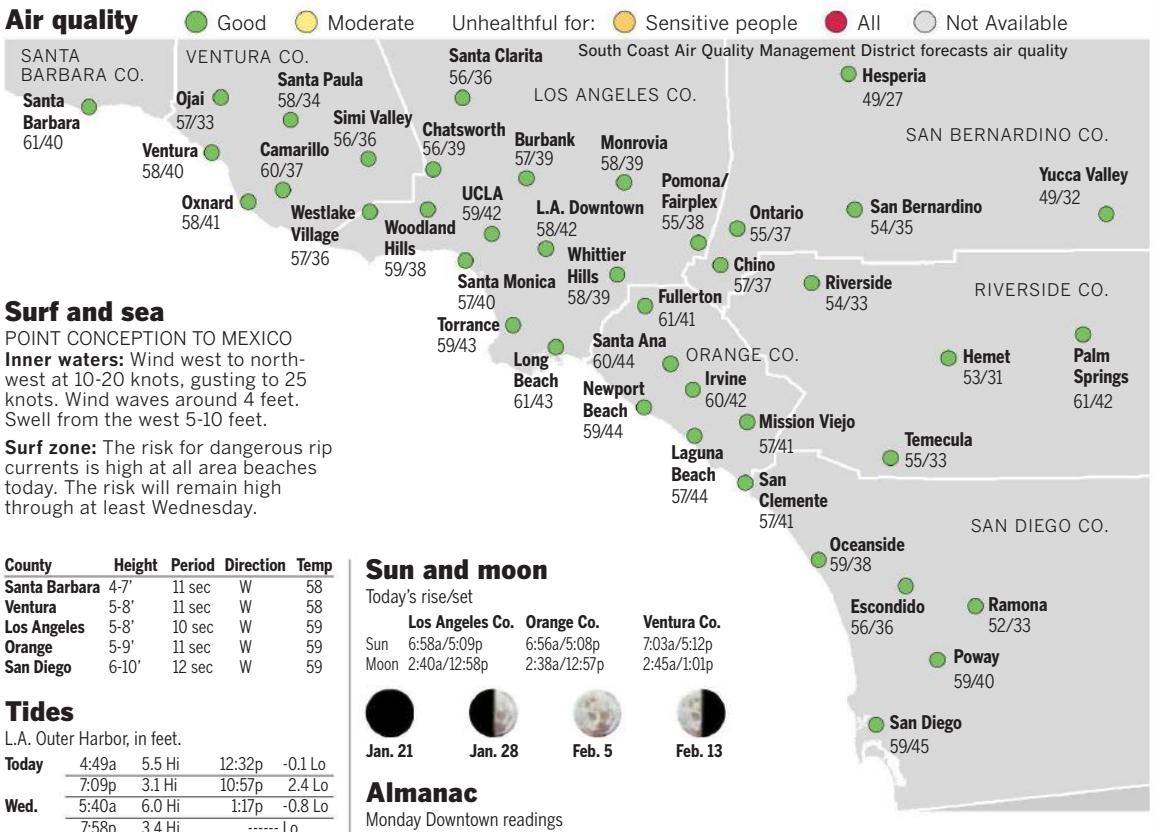
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	58|42		56|39		57|40		34|11		61|42	
	Clouds, sun; cool		Cool; some sun		Clouds, sun; cool		Mostly cloudy		Mostly cloudy	
Wednesday	Mostly sunny	60/45	Partly sunny	59/41	Clouding up	59/40	Mostly sunny	38/16	Mostly sunny	64/43
Thursday	Partly sunny	58/42	A shower	54/43	Partly sunny	58/41	A shower	35/10	Clouds, sun	61/48
Friday	Mostly sunny	62/42	Mostly sunny	60/43	Mostly sunny	60/40	Very cold	31/13	Sunny	68/45
Saturday	Sunny; cool	63/45	Sunny	65/42	Sunny; cool	61/41	Not as cold	38/22	Sunny	70/46

Air quality

Good · Moderate · Unhealthful for: Sensitive people · All · Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind west to northwest at 10-20 knots, gusting to 25 knots. Wind waves around 4 feet. Swell from the west 5-10 feet.

Surf zone: The risk for dangerous rip currents is high at all area beaches today. The risk will remain high through at least Wednesday.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	4-7'	11 sec	W	58
Ventura	5-8'	11 sec	W	58
Los Angeles	5-8'	10 sec	W	59
Orange	5-9'	11 sec	W	59
San Diego	6-10'	12 sec	W	59

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	4:49a	5.5 Hi	12:32p	-0.1 Lo
	7:09p	3.1 Hi	10:57p	2.4 Lo
Wed.	5:40a	6.0 Hi	1:17p	-0.8 Lo
	7:58p	3.4 Hi	------	Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 60 · Phoenix, 60
Los Angeles, 45 · San Francisco, 60

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:58a/5:09p	6:56a/5:08p	7:03a/5:12p
Moon	2:40a/12:58p	2:38a/12:57p	2:45a/1:01p

Jan. 21 · Jan. 28 · Feb. 5 · Feb. 13

Almanac

Monday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	61/50	62/51	57/48
Normal high/low	68/49	69/47	66/44
High/low a year ago	75/60	76/56	73/62
Record high/date	88/2021	88/2014	86/2021
Record low/date	31/1888	31/2007	33/1987

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.83	1.01	0.70
Season total (since Oct. 1)	13.01	10.78	13.33
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.18	5.43	9.39
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	5.67	4.60	6.34
Humidity (high/low)	93/64	100/57	100/71

California cities

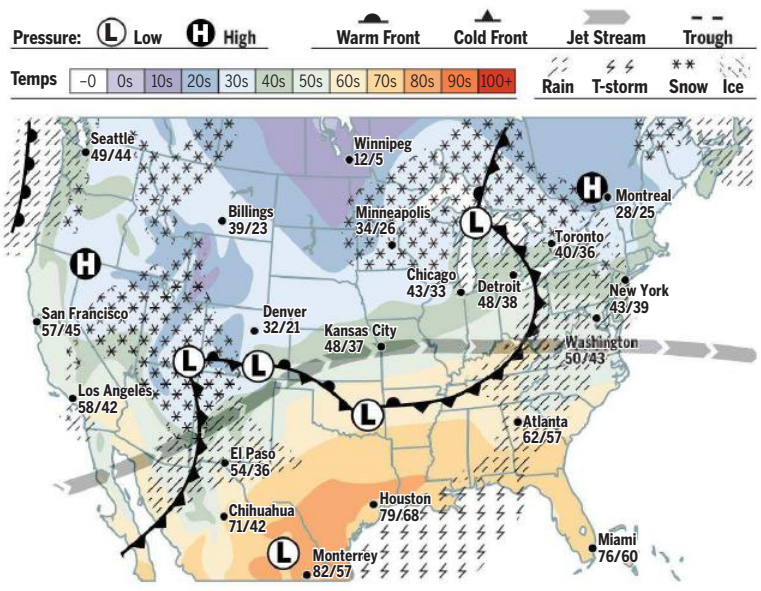
City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Wed. Hi	Lo
Anaheim	62	50	1.21	60	41	61	41
Avalon/Catalina	55	48	--	52	46	54	46
Bakersfield	57	48	.20	53	39	56	39
Barstow	63	43	.05	54	32	55	37
Big Bear Lake	37	31	.68	34	11	38	16
Bishop	47	33	.25	46	19	45	28
Burbank	57	48	.56	57	39	59	43
Camarillo	59	50	.79	60	37	61	42
Chatsworth	58	47	.79	56	39	59	42
Chino	59	53	--	57	37	59	39
Compton	58	49	1.00	60	42	60	42
Dana Point	59	51	1.09	58	44	59	42
Death Valley	72	56	--	61	41	60	43
Del Mar	60	53	1.41	59	44	60	43
Escondido	57	51	1.71	56	36	59	38
Eureka	52	38	--	55	41	52	37
Fallbrook	58	28	1.94	56	36	59	36
Fresno	57	45	.08	54	39	55	42
Fullerton	62	51	.69	61	41	63	42
Hemet	57	44	.67	53	31	56	32
Hesperia	55	43	.08	49	27	51	31
Huntington Beach	62	51	.72	59	43	58	45
Idyllwild	41	34	2.22	38	26	44	30
Irvine	60	51	.72	60	42	61	45

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Wed. Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	61	50	.62	58	42	60	45
L.A. Int'l. Airport	59	50	.78	59	45	59	46
Laguna Beach	60	52	.77	57	44	59	45
Lancaster	54	44	.13	51	25	52	33
Long Beach	61	53	.91	61	43	61	43
Mammoth Lakes	30	18	1.06	26	3	30	17
Mission Viejo	56	49	.15	57	41	60	40
Monrovia	60	47	.83	58	39	59	39
Monterey	53	47	.48	55	41	58	46
Mt. Wilson	xx	xx	--	33	29	39	29
Needles	63	51	.02	60	39	58	39
Newport Beach	58	54	.83	59	44	60	47
Northridge	57	46	.73	58	38	60	42
Oakland	56	45	1.28	56	42	56	43
Oceanside	60	51	1.34	59	38	62	37
Ojai	60	48	.78	57	33	58	36
Ontario	57	46	.96	55	37	58	38
Palm Springs	64	50	.38	61	42	64	43
Pasadena	60	47	1.00	56	39	59	43
Paso Robles	52	46	.25	55	34	56	38
Redding	55	43	.12	58	34	45	33
Riverside	57	45	.69	54	33	58	33
Sacramento	55	46	.48	54	37	53	39
San Bernardino	55	47	.59	54	35	59	36

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Wed. Hi	Lo
San Diego	62	56	1.77	59	45	61	45
San Francisco	56	47	1.11	57	45	57	46
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	58	38	60	39
San Jose	55	45	.72	57	39	58	40
San Luis Obispo	57	50	.49	57	38	57	42
Santa Ana	60	52	.39	60	44	62	46
Santa Barbara	62	52	.37	61	40	60	41
Santa Clarita	56	47	.60	56	36	59	41
Santa Monica Pier	59	49	--	57	40	59	40
Santa Paula	60	49	.73	58	34	61	39
Santa Rosa	56	43	.37	58	35	54	35
Simi Valley	56	47	.50	56	36	58	38
Tahoe Valley	xx	xx	--	32	11	37	24
Temecula	56	48	1.71	55	33	59	35
Thousand Oaks	55	48	.65	57	37	59	39
Torrance	57	55	.02	59	43	59	43
UCLA	xx	xx	--	59	42	60	43
Van Nuys	59	50	.63	58	40	61	42
Ventura	57	48	.70	58	40	58	42
Whittier Hills	61	50	.68	58	39	61	38
Woodland Hills	58	48	.42	59	38	60	41
Wrightwood	39	34	.63	36	26	41	26
Yorba Linda	59	49	.99	56	40	59	37
Yosemite Valley	36	32	1.25	32	17	38	20

Today in North America

Storm begins to shift east: A storm will spread rain and heavy mountain snow across the Southwest during the day, then into parts of the Plains at night. Rain will dampen most of the East while a mix of rain and snow falls over the Great Lakes.



U.S. cities

MONDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 90 in Edinburg, Texas

Low -7 in Big Piney, Wyo.

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	34	19	--	36	30	Sf
Albuquerque	42	34	Tr	47	27	Sh
Anchorage	30	23	--	29	19	Pc
Aspen	33	19	.05	29	15	Sn
Atlanta	62	34	--	62	57	R
Austin	78	60	--	80	62	Pc
Baltimore	56	29	--	48	40	Cy
Boise	45	32	--	40	25	Cy
Boston	33	29	.12	47	38	Pc
Buffalo	41	17	--	43	37	R
Burlington, Vt.	24	14	Tr	33	30	Pc
Charleston, S.C.	65	33	--	68	55	Cy
Charlotte	57	26	--	54	47	R
Chicago	48	39	.18	43	33	Cy
Cincinnati	47	28	.20	58	38	Pc
Cleveland	46	22	Tr	52	38	Cy
Columbia, S.C.	62	26	--	60	52	Ts
Columbus	43	25	.07	56	38	Cy
Dallas/Ft.Worth	76	63	--	74	58	Pc
Denver	47	24	Tr	32	21	Cy
Detroit	40	26	.20	48	38	Cy
El Paso	50	48	.04	54	36	Sh
Eugene	53	33	--	49	43	Cy
Fort Myers	72	41	--	76	55	Su
Hartford	39	27	.02	46	32	Pc
Honolulu	84	70	--	79	65	Pc
Houston	76	66	Tr	79	68	Pc
Indianapolis	45	33	.12	51	34	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	66	29	--	74	53	Su
Kansas City	58	54	Tr	48	37	Pc
Knoxville	49	26	--	56	49	R
Las Vegas	59	44	.13	53	36	Pc
Louisville	51	32	.21	62	42	Pc
Medford	47	28	--	50	37	Cy
Memphis	59	49	.11	67	55	Pc
Miami	74	44	--	76	60	Pc
Milwaukee	43	39	.24	43	34	Cy
Minneapolis	36	33	.37	34	26	Sf
Nashville	60	36	.06	66	47	R
New Orleans	72	53	--	78	66	R
New York	48	28	--	43	39	Cy
Norfolk	52	32	--	50	46	Cy
Oklahoma City	66	51	--	65	51	Cy
Omaha	45	40	.02	38	26	Pc
Orlando	68	39	--	73	50	Su
Philadelphia	50	28	--	46	42	Cy
Phoenix	61	51	.23	59	42	Cy
Pittsburgh	45	18	--	50	40	R
Portland, Ore.	51	39	Tr	47	43	Sh
Providence	35	30	.05	47	34	Sh
Raleigh/Durham	58	25	--	51	46	R
Reno	36	32	.49	38	19	Cy
Richmond	58	28	--	53	44	Sh
St. Louis	62	48	.05	53	39	Pc
Salt Lake City	41	35	.04	37	26	Sn

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	50	42	.15	49	44	Cy
Tampa	65	40	--	69	56	Pc
Tucson	57	49	1.00	56	37	Sh
Tulsa	68	56	--	65	49	Pc
Washington, D.C.	56	29	--	50	43	Sh
Wichita	63	38	--	56	42	Pc

World

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	84	71	--	84	68	Pc
Amsterdam	42	36	1.69	41	28	Pc
Athens	59	41	--	65	60	Pc
Bangkok	93	75	--	92	71	Cy
Barcelona	61	45	--	61	42	Sh
Berlin	45	36	--	41	27	Pc
Cabo San Lucas	79	52	--	76	54	Pc
Cairo	63	57	--	67	53	Su
Dubai	77	63	--	83	70	Cy
Dublin	37	30	--	38	31	Pc
Havana	75	45	--	81	54	Su
Ho Chi Minh City	93	77	--	91	73	Pc
Hong Kong	58	51	--	63	52	Pc
Istanbul	52	43	--	60	56	W
Jerusalem	54	43	--	58	42	Su
Johannesburg	85	57	--	85	60	Pc
Kuala Lumpur	90	75	.17	93	73	Cy
Lima	78	68	--	76	68	Hz
London	42	37	.02	38	28	Pc
Madrid	52	38	.02	51	36	Sh
Mecca	85	69	.28	80	63	Pc
Mexico City	76	41	--	79	41	Pc
Montreal	23	3	--	28	25	Cy
Moscow	27	26	.08	34	32	Sn
Mumbai	81	68	--	84	66	Hz
New Delhi	63	41	--	62	42	Hz
Paris	44	41	.29	38	30	R
Prague	43	34	--	39	30	Pc
Rome	56	52	.21	59	50	R
Seoul	39	20	--	36	21	Pc
Singapore	87	75	.07	89	76	Cy
Taipei City	57	50	.14	61	55	Sh
Tokyo	57	43	.24	50	41	Pc
Vancouver	46	45	.43	47	43	R
Vienna	40	38	--	45	35	Cy

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Monday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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Fletcher brothers likely teammates

[**Fletchers,** from B10]

Team Italy in the inaugural WBC in 2006, then returned to the team as a coach for the next two editions.

WBC teams have until Feb. 7 to finalize the 30-player roster they will take into the main competition in March, and both David and Dominic are likely to be on the Italian team. It would be the brothers' first time playing together since high school.

David, 28, has been with the Angels since they drafted him out of Loyola Marymount in 2015. The versatile infielder will enter the third year of his five-year contract with the team this season. Dominic, a 25-year-old outfielder, plays in the Arizona Diamondbacks organization, which drafted him out of Arkansas in 2019. His goal this season is to get called up to the majors.

Since turning pro, the Fletchers have played on the same field only once. That was this past summer. David was on a rehabilitation assignment with the Angels' triple-A team, the Salt Lake Bees, who had a game against the Diamondbacks' affiliate, the Reno Aces, whom Dominic played for.

Though Dominic says David is the better player, citing David's contract, he noted that in that triple-A game, "I got more hits than him," he playfully said.

"Yeah, that was pretty cool," David said. "Getting to play on the same field in professional baseball and hopefully one day in the major leagues too."

David was called up to the big leagues the week before Dominic and the Razorbacks were to start their run at the 2018 College World Series. Their father, Tim, already had tickets and plans to see Dominic play. He found a flight to Seattle, where David was making his debut.

Tim couldn't follow David and the Angels to their next game, which was in Oakland, because of work. The next week, at the College World Series, Tim parked himself away from much of the crowd, in a set of stands in the outfield, so that he could see Dominic play right in front of him. At the same time, he streamed the Angels game on his phone.

When the boys were children, they would wait for their father to come home from work so he could pitch to them.

It was a daily routine that included playing makeshift baseball games with other children from the Aliso Viejo neighborhood they lived in. The family moved to Cypress when David was 8 and Dominic 5.

"They just loved to play all the time," Tim said.

But they didn't learn the sport from their dad. Baseball started with David, and Dominic picked it up from him.

"My dad wanted us to play football, and my mom was against us playing football," Dominic said.

David grew into the sport on his own, finding a simple joy in throwing and catching baseballs, tennis balls, even balloons and learning how to use a glove when he was a toddler.

"I didn't know then, but I know now that not a lot of people can do that," Tim said.

When David was 5 he asked his parents to send him to a summer camp at the Mark Cresse School of Baseball — which has three locations in Southern California and whose alumni include Piazza and former Angels All-Star Mark Trumbo. Fernanda would bring Dominic with her when she took David to camp, and by the next year, Dominic was asking to participate as well.

"Throughout both of our careers, he got to do everything first," Dominic said. "Not only advice he told me but just being able to watch him and learn and pick up on things that he did throughout his journey has really helped me."

David said that although he offers advice to Dominic, his younger brother does well on his own.

JOHN E. MOORE III Getty Images

DOMINIC FLETCHER plays in the Diamondbacks organization and aims for a big league call-up in 2023.

"He sets a good example of how to work hard," David added.

The Fletcher brothers played together on the same team just once, at Cypress High. That was in 2013, when David was a senior and Dominic was a freshman, and it might not have happened — Tim and Fernanda had contemplated sending Dominic to a different school. The brothers helped the Centurions to their second CIF Division 2 championship in program history.

"Those two boys were incredibly tireless workers," Cypress coach John Weber said.

The Fletchers don't all live in the same place anymore. Dominic spends his offseason in Arkansas, where younger sister Daviana is a cheerleader for the Razorbacks, and David lives in South Orange County.

David still goes back to the fields at Cypress High — a special place for the Fletchers, who ran around and played on those fields even before they were teenagers — to watch games and even work out in his offseason. He also lends his time and resources to support his old team. Weber said one of his players had his baseball bag and cleats stolen. Weber called David, who sent over a new pair of cleats.

"He does things like that. He donates time to our poker fundraiser, he donates things, he comes to our events," Weber said.

David also has gotten Angels teammates such as Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout to donate gear to his high school team's fundraisers.

When Dominic is in town, he works out with David and supports some of his community outreach efforts, like David's charity poker tournament. The next edition of that event, whose proceeds go toward Summer Harvest Food 4 Kids, is Friday at the Old Ranch Club in Seal Beach.

"I'm awful proud of them, and I'm not just talking about baseball," Tim said. "I said, 'You gotta give back in some way when you get the opportunity.' "

James blazing path at Sierra Canyon

[**James,** from B10]

son of Lakers star LeBron James. The next, great prodigy.

"He is the heart of Sierra Canyon basketball," Howe said at the school's senior night Jan. 11.

Yet take a step back. Look closer. The tapestry is unfinished.

James averaged 20 points in a three-game stretch against Chaminade, Marietta (Ga.) Wheeler and L.A. Loyola, looking the part of an aggressive, go-to-scorer who could take over when needed.

He then scored four points against Encino Crespi, shooting two for seven from the field, and 13 in a Monday loss to Miami (Fla.) Columbus.

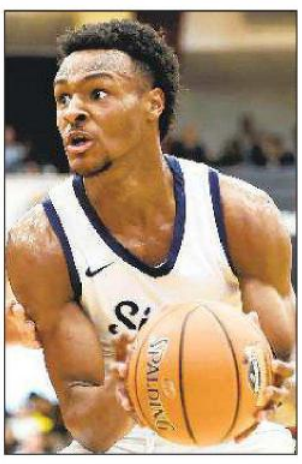
Pressure is mounting and bigger moments are on the horizon, and given the family's efforts to shield their eldest son from speaking to the media, it's anyone's guess how James is handling it. The playoffs, and a stacked Southern Section, are looming for Sierra Canyon (17-4) in a matter of weeks.

According to a person with knowledge of the situation not authorized to speak publicly, James will make a decision on his college commitment after the season, and his top three schools are Ohio State — his father's favorite — USC and Oregon. LeBron James, 38, recently doubled down on previous remarks that he wants to finish his NBA career playing with his son.

The path has been laid. Yet 3½ years into his high school career, it's still unclear who exactly Bronny James is going to be.

Is he a big-time scorer, a leader-to-be with NBA-ready potential at the NCAA Division I level? Or is he a complementary role player, someone who occasionally busts out of the shadows with a highlight?

As much as this was billed as James' season — now a four-year varsity player having played behind Amari Bailey, Brandon Boston Jr., KJ Martin, Zaire Williams and other Trailblazers stars — Sierra Canyon still has other standouts. Memphis commit Ashton Hardaway is emerging as a big-time shooter. Junior Isaiah Elohim can consistently score from the midrange. The entire rotation of a particularly deep Trailblazers team has college-level potential.



GREGORY PAYAN Associated Press

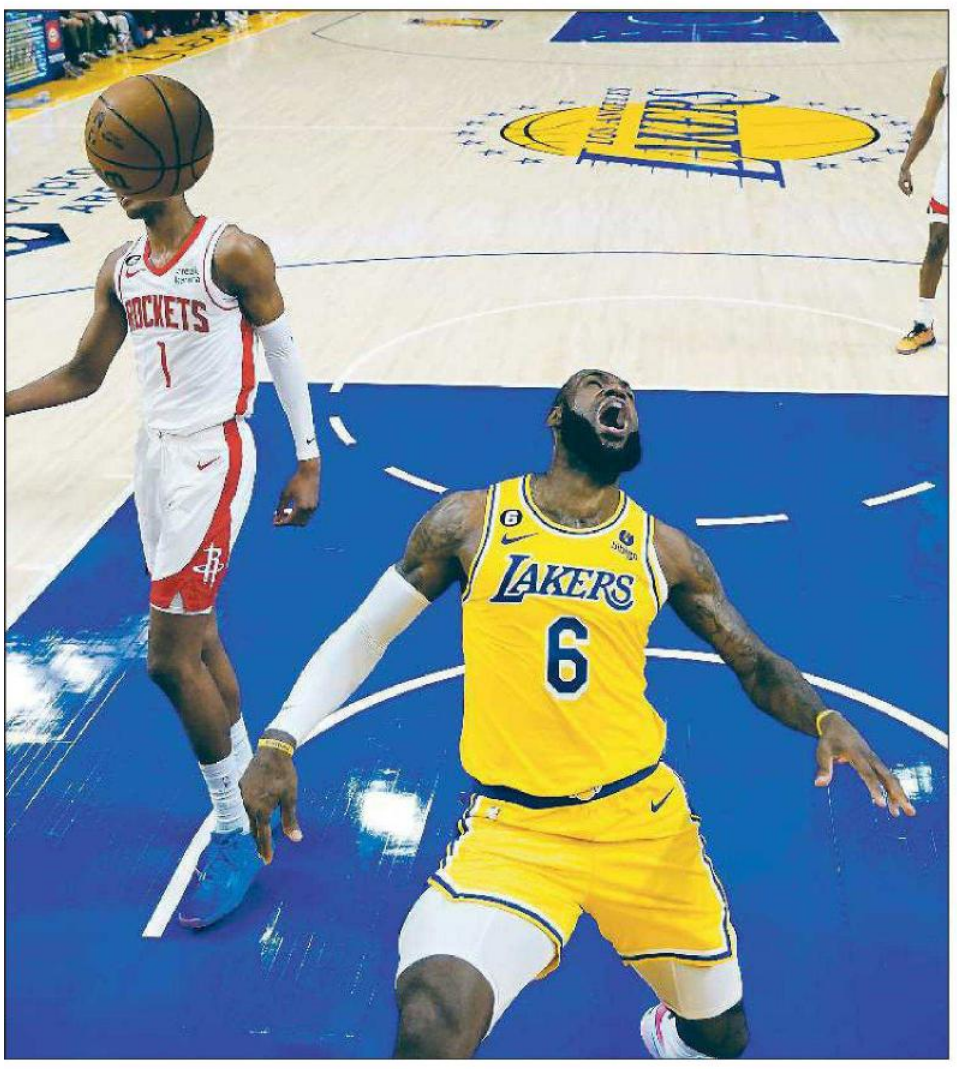
BRONNY JAMES has shown flashes of brilliance as a senior.

Since a return from a holiday tournament in Oregon, something has shifted in the young James. He's more vocal, on the court and behind the scenes. He directs traffic. He controls tempo. Sierra Canyon feeds off his motor, Williams said, off James' one-handed snatches of rebounds and decision-making in transition.

"Whenever we're sped up or we don't know anything, we kind of just look to [James] to figure it out," said senior Jimmy Oladokun, who is a 6-foot-8 force inside.

That's not a moment too soon for Sierra Canyon. Studio City Harvard-Westlake (20-1) looms Friday, Sherman Oaks Notre Dame (14-7) will challenge with a high-octane offense Jan. 27 at Pauley Pavilion, and the Southern Section Open Division playoffs next month will be a dogfight.

"He's just starting to see who he is, and know what he is," Chevalier said.



JAE C. HONG Associated Press

LeBRON JAMES reacts after dunking against Houston during the first half. James scored 48 points to help the Lakers stop a three-game losing streak.

James, Lakers put on show

[**Lakers,** from B10]
all of us just really being able to witness it, be a part of it. ... And it shows his competitive spirit, his no-quit mentality."

The Rockets kept coming back behind the play of Alperen Sengun, who had a career-high 33 points, 15 rebounds and six assists.

But with the Lakers turning the ball over just twice, a franchise low, they were able to break a three-game losing streak.

"There's no easy nights in this league," Ham said. "Happy we were able to sustain throughout the 48 minutes."

James scored 28 points by the time he took his first break in the third quarter with 3 minutes 50 seconds left and the Lakers holding a 95-81 lead that was sliced to 102-98 at the end of the quarter, with James on the bench watching.

The Lakers dropped a double-overtime game to the Dallas Mavericks last Thursday night, a game in which L.A. thought a few last-second calls should have gone its way. The Lakers followed that up with a last-second, one-point loss to the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday night, another game in which L.A. didn't like the calls.

Despite all that, Ham didn't want his team feeling sorry for itself.

He didn't want the Lakers to look back but rather ahead for the next challenge.

"Just with that hammer, man, keep chipping away at the rock. As I mentioned, it can be disappointing, but you gotta get past that. You gotta shake it off," Ham said before the game. You got another game you gotta tee up tonight. That's the great thing about this league, you don't get long to feel sorry for yourself. And you also get a chance to hit the restart button and try to get it right. Just a ton of great things that took place against some really top-shelf talent the last couple of games. But, again, just making plays, playing the right way, keeping that competitive edge, staying together.

"I think we're in a good place in terms of all that. We just gotta figure out how to finish games in this league."

The Lakers got some feel-good moments to help them forget about the two tough losses.

Kendrick Nunn provided the first, throwing down a one-handed dunk over Houston's Jalen Green in the first quarter to bring the crowd to its feet.

Then there were the back-to-back exciting plays.

James grabbed a defensive rebound and went coast to coast, powering in for a layup while being fouled by Sengun. James stopped to pose for a few seconds, bellowing to the cheering crowd: "I'm a bad ... boy!"

On the very next play, James grabbed a defensive rebound and went coast to coast for a dunk, his head bobbing afterward and more unprintable words coming out of his mouth.

Moore makes it official, ends her WNBA career

She left game in 2019 to help now-husband get his 50-year prison sentence overturned.

BY DOUG FEINBERG

ELAINE THOMPSON Associated Press

MAYA MOORE won four WNBA titles and was named most valuable player in 2014 with the Lynx.

Maya Moore knew it was time to officially end her basketball career — four years after stepping away.

The Minnesota Lynx star left the WNBA in 2019 to help Jonathan Irons win his release from prison by getting his 50-year sentence overturned in 2020. Irons married Moore soon after his release and the couple had their first child, Jonathan Jr., in July.

She announced her decision to retire on ABC's "Good Morning America." Before Monday, Moore had been noncommittal about playing basketball again.

"Well, I think it's time to put a close to the pro basketball life," Moore said. "I walked away four seasons ago but wanted to officially retire. This is such a sweet time for us and our family. The work we've done, I want to continue that in our next chapter. Be home for my community and family."

In a video call with reporters after the show, Moore said she missed her teammates but was too focused over the last four years on her off-the-court priorities that transitioning back to basketball was not on her mind.

"Just trying to learn a new rhythm outside of playing — I didn't really wrestle with a desire to want to switch that pace up," she said, later adding: "I wasn't just sitting around wishing I was playing again. I just felt such a sense of purpose."

The 33-year-old Moore won four WNBA championships with the Minnesota Lynx, two Olympic gold medals with USA Basketball and two NCAA titles with Connecticut.

"On behalf of the Minnesota Lynx organization, I want to congratulate Maya on an incredible basketball career," Lynx coach and president of basketball operations Cheryl Reeve said. "We will always cherish her time in a Lynx uniform and we wish her the best as she continues to pursue this next chapter of her life."

Moore will be eligible for the Naismith Hall of Fame next year since she stopped playing four years ago.

She was drafted No. 1 by the Lynx in 2011, winning the rookie of the year award and going on to average 18.4 points, 5.9 rebounds and 1.7 steals over eight seasons for Minnesota. She was the league's most valuable player in 2014 and the only player in WNBA history with four 40-plus-point games.

"Her four WNBA championships, six All-Star selections, an MVP award and a Finals MVP trophy are indicative of the type of rare, generational talent Maya brought to this league, but perhaps her greatest legacy will be what she accomplished beyond the game," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said.

When Moore stepped away from basketball, she started a social action campaign "Win With Justice." Moore and her husband also have a book coming out this week titled "Love & Justice."

During her career, she was at the forefront of the Lynx becoming one of the first pro sports teams to fully embrace social activism, starting before a July 9, 2016 game when players wore black T-shirts that read, "Change Starts With Us." Their message was prompted by fatal police shootings that week of Philando Castile in Minnesota and Alton Sterling in Louisiana.

"I hope people saw me as someone who gave all she had," Moore said Monday, "but also somebody who looked beyond the craft that I pursued."

The Lynx went 200-71 in the regular season and 40-16 in the playoffs during Moore's career as the star among stars in a core that featured Seimone Augustus, Lindsay Whalen, Rebekkah Brunson and eventually Sylvia Fowles.

Moore finished her career as the Lynx franchise leader in scoring average, three-point field goals made (530) and steals (449) and finished second in total points scored (4,984), field goals made (1,782), assists (896) and blocks (176).

"Maya Moore has forever left a mark on the state of Minnesota, the Minnesota Lynx franchise and the hearts of Lynx fans everywhere," Minnesota Lynx owner Glen Taylor said. "Maya's accolades are numerous; her leadership and talent both fearless and inspirational set the foundation for the most exciting and historic championship run in the league from 2011-2017. While today culminates Maya's basketball career, there is no doubt she will continue to impact the game we all love."

Moore went 150-4 in her career at UConn. The two-time Associated Press player of the year was a key part of the Huskies' 90-game winning streak that was the longest ever until the school had a 111-game run a few years later.

Feinberg writes for the Associated Press

NBA STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. Division standing no longer has any bearing on the rankings. The top six teams in each conference qulify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded team playing the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	30	13	.698		8-2	N1
1. Memphis	30	13	.698		10-0	S1
3. New Orleans	26	18	.591	4½	4-6	S2
4. Sacramento	24	18	.571	5½	7-3	P1
5. Dallas	24	21	.533	7	5-5	S3
6. CLIPPERS	23	22	.511	8	3-7	P2
7. Golden State	22	22	.500	8½	6-4	P3
8. Minnesota	22	23	.489	9	6-4	N3
8. Utah	23	24	.489	9	4-6	N2
10. Portland	21	22	.488	9	4-6	N4
11. Oklahoma City	21	23	.477	9½	6-4	N5
12. Phoenix	21	24	.467	10	1-9	P4
13. LAKERS	20	24	.455	10½	6-4	P5
14. San Antonio	13	31	.295	17½	2-8	S4
15. Houston	10	34	.227	20½	0-10	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Boston	33	12	.733		8-2	A1
2. Brooklyn	27	15	.643	4½	7-3	A2
3. Milwaukee	28	16	.636	4½	6-4	C1
4. Philadelphia	27	16	.628	5	7-3	A3
5. Cleveland	28	17	.622	5	6-4	C2
6. New York	25	20	.556	8	7-3	A4
7. Miami	24	21	.533	9	6-4	S1
8. Indiana	23	22	.511	10	5-5	C3
9. Atlanta	22	22	.500	½	5-5	S2
10. Chicago	20	24	.455	2½	5-5	C4
10. Toronto	20	24	.455	2½	5-5	A5
12. Washington	18	26	.409	4½	5-5	S3
13. Orlando	16	28	.364	6½	3-7	S4
14. Detroit	12	35	.255	12	3-7	C5
15. Charlotte	11	34	.244	12	2-8	S5

MONDAY'S RESULTS

LAKERS 140, Rockets 132	Toronto 123, New York 121 (OT)
Memphis 136, Phoenix 106	Cleveland 113, N. Orleans 103
Utah 126, Minnesota 125	Milwaukee 132, Indiana 119
Atlanta 121, Miami 113	Boston 130, Charlotte 118
Golden State 127, Wash. 118	

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
at CLIPPERS	OFF	Philadelphia	7 p.m.
at Milwaukee	OFF	Toronto	4:30
Brooklyn	5½	at San Antonio	5 p.m.
at Denver	8½	Portland	6 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Sunday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, DAL	39	447	329	1336	34.3
Embiid, PHI	30	337	299	1004	33.5
Antetokounmpo, MIL	35	382	296	1085	31.0
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	39	397	366	1198	30.7
Tatum, BOS	41	411	300	1253	30.6
Durant, BKN	39	410	267	1158	29.7
Mitchell, CLE	38	382	201	1110	29.2
James, LAKERS	32	362	142	927	29.0
Lillard, POR	29	254	197	818	28.2
Morant, MEM	34	333	214	937	27.6

LAKERS 140, ROCKETS 132

HOUSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Martin Jr.	30	7-15	1-2	2-7	0	4	17
Smith Jr.	28	5-11	3-4	1-4	4	5	14
Sengun	37	14-17	3-5	4-15	6	5	33
Gordon	31	5-11	9-11	0-2	8	1	19
Green	39	7-20	6-8	1-5	3	3	23
Eason	20	4-6	0-0	5-7	0	2	9
Tate	17	3-8	1-1	1-1	4	3	7
Mathews	13	2-5	0-0	1-4	1	1	6
Garuba	10	2-3	0-0	1-2	1	1	4
Christopher	10	0-4	0-0	1-1	1	0	0
Totals		**49-100**	**23-31**	**17-48**	**28**	**25**	**132**

Shooting: Field goals, 49.0%; free throws, 74.2%

Three-point goals: 11-30 (Green 3-10, Sengun 2-2, Mathews 2-3, Martin Jr. 2-5, Eason 1-1, Smith Jr. 1-4, Tate 0-1, Christopher 0-2, Gordon 0-2). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Sengun 4, Martin Jr. 2, Eason). Turnovers: 8 (Martin Jr. 2, Sengun 2, Eason, Green, Mathews, Smith Jr.). Steals: 0 Technical Fouls: None.

LAKERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown Jr.	29	2-4	0-0	0-3	1	0	6
James	35	16-26	11-12	1-8	9	1	48
Bryant	17	1-6	4-4	0-6	0	3	6
Beverley	21	3-6	2-2	0-2	1	2	11
Schroder	33	3-9	3-5	0-2	3	3	9
Westbrook	32	9-16	6-8	2-5	4	2	24
Gabriel	24	5-8	4-4	5-9	1	6	14
Nunn	23	7-12	0-0	0-2	1	0	15
Toscno-Andrsn	16	3-4	0-0	1-2	3	2	7
Christie	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**49-91**	**30-35**	**9-39**	**23**	**19**	**140**

Shooting: Field goals, 53.8%; free throws, 85.7%

Three-point goals: 12-33 (James 5-10, Beverley 3-6, Brown Jr. 2-4, Toscano-Anderson 1-2, Nunn 1-5, Bryant 0-1, Gabriel 0-1, Schroder 0-1, Westbrook 0-3). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Bryant 2, Gabriel 2, Brown Jr.). Turnovers: 2 (Brown Jr., Toscano-Anderson). Steals: 4 (Brown Jr., Gabriel, Toscano-Anderson, Westbrook). Technical Fouls: Lakers, 8:23 first.

Houston	**35**	**26**	**37**	**34—132**
LAKERS	**37**	**36**	**29**	**38—140**

A—17,657. T—2:28.

CLIPPERS, LAKERS STATISTICS

Through Sunday's games

CLIPPERS	PPG	RPG	APG
George	23.7	6.0	5.1
Leonard	19.0	6.2	3.9
Powell	15.6	3.0	1.7
Morris	13.3	4.8	1.7
Wall	11.4	2.7	5.2
Jackson	11.1	2.4	3.7
Zubac	10.1	10.3	1.0
Mann	8.8	3.7	1.9
Kennard	8.7	2.5	1.2
Batum	6.2	4.4	1.4
Covington	5.9	3.9	1.2
Boston	5.4	1.3	.8
Brown	4.3	3.8	.1
Diabate	4.1	4.0	.3
Coffey	3.7	1.2	1.3
Preston	2.5	1.2	1.8
LAKERS	**PPG**	**RPG**	**APG**
James	29.2	8.4	6.9
Davis	27.4	12.1	2.6
Westbrook	15.5	6.6	7.9
Walker	14.7	2.3	1.4
Bryant	12.9	7.2	.8
Schroder	12.3	2.2	3.7
Reaves	10.8	3.1	2.2
T.Brown	6.8	3.9	.7
Gabriel	6.4	3.9	.5
Nunn	6.2	1.2	.9
Beverley	5.8	3.5	2.6
Ryan	3.9	1.2	.3
Christie	3.6	2.3	.6
Jones	2.9	2.8	.2
Toscano-Anderson	2.7	2.3	.8
Swider	2.3	1.5	1.0
Pippen	2.2	.8	.2
S.Brown	0.0	2.0	.5

Warriors 127, Wizards 118

GOLDEN STATE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
D.Green	35	5-7	5-6	2-6	10	3	17
Wiggins	31	6-15	1-1	0-3	4	4	14
Looney	27	1-3	0-0	5-9	3	4	2
Curry	37	12-28	11-12	1-7	2	1	41
Poole	36	12-20	1-1	0-7	3	3	32
DiVincenzo	27	5-9	1-1	0-5	3	3	11
Lamb	24	4-5	0-0	1-5	1	2	10
Jerome	14	0-3	0-0	0-1	2	2	0
Moody	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals		**45-91**	**19-21**	**9-43**	**28**	**23**	**127**

Shooting: Field goals, 49.5%; free throws, 90.5%

Three-point goals: 18-44 (Poole 7-13, Curry 6-15, Lamb 2-2, D.Green 2-3, Wiggins 1-6, Moody 0-1, DiVincenzo 0-4). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 1 (Poole). Turnovers: 12 (Curry 4, Poole 4, D.Green 2, Looney, Wiggins). Steals: 8 (D.Green 3, Jerome 2, Poole 2, Looney). Technical Fouls: None.

WASHINGTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Kuzma	40	5-20	2-4	3-11	5	2	16
Porzingis	36	9-15	11-12	0-5	4	3	32
Gafford	22	6-8	2-2	1-5	0	3	14
Kispert	27	2-5	0-0	0-2	1	1	5
Morris	31	6-13	2-2	0-4	10	4	17
Wright	27	3-5	2-2	0-1	7	2	9
Hachimura	26	7-9	0-0	0-1	2	1	16
Goodwin	14	1-2	1-1	0-2	1	1	3
Avdija	13	3-9	0-0	2-5	2	4	6
Totals		**42-86**	**20-23**	**6-36**	**32**	**21**	**118**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.8%; free throws, 87.0%

Three-point goals: 14-35 (Kuzma 4-12, Morris 3-4, Porzingis 3-7, Hachimura 2-3, Wright 1-2, Kispert 1-4, Goodwin 0-1, Avdija 0-2). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Porzingis 2). Turnovers: 14 (Kuzma 6, Avdija 2, Gafford, Hachimura, Kispert, Morris, Porzingis, Wright). Steals: 7 (Morris 2, Wright 2, Goodwin, Kuzma, Porzingis). Technical Fouls: None.

Golden State	**35**	**34**	**24**	**34—127**
Washington	**33**	**31**	**29**	**25—118**

A—20,476. T—2:17.

Hawks 121, Heat 113

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Butler	33	11-16	11-11	2-3	3	2	34
C.Martin	25	3-5	0-0	2-6	1	5	7
Adebayo	36	9-19	2-2	6-13	5	3	20
Herro	31	7-16	0-0	0-5	4	1	15
Vincent	26	4-10	0-0	1-3	3	2	10
Oladipo	34	3-8	1-2	1-6	10	3	7
Strus	27	3-9	5-5	0-2	3	3	13
Highsmith	12	3-5	0-0	0-2	0	1	7
O.Robinson	11	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	2	0
Totals		**43-89**	**19-20**	**12-41**	**30**	**22**	**113**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.3%; free throws, 95.0%

Three-point goals: 8-31 (Strus 2-7, Vincent 2-7, Butler 1-1, C.Martin 1-1, Highsmith 1-3, Herro 1-8, Oladipo 0-4). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Adebayo 3, Butler). Turnovers: 14 (Adebayo 3, Strus 3, Butler 2, C.Martin 2, Vincent 2, Herro, Highsmith). Steals: 10 (Adebayo 3, Butler 2, C.Martin 2, Vincent 2, Oladipo). Technical Fouls: Adebayo, 8:29 fourth.

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Collins	31	6-9	2-2	1-4	1	1	14
Hunter	33	6-10	2-2	0-4	4	3	15
Okongwu	27	3-3	2-2	1-3	0	5	8
Murray	35	11-17	1-2	0-4	7	0	28
Young	35	6-13	9-11	0-3	8	4	24
Bogdanovic	30	2-11	2-2	0-1	5	1	8
Capela	20	6-7	0-1	0-6	0	1	12
Griffin	20	5-6	0-0	0-3	2	1	12
A.Holiday	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals		**45-76**	**18-22**	**2-28**	**27**	**17**	**121**

Shooting: Field goals, 59.2%; free throws, 81.8%

Three-point goals: 13-27 (Murray 5-8, Young 3-6, Griffin 2-3, Bogdanovic 2-5, Hunter 1-4, Collins 0-1). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Capela 3, Murray, Okongwu). Turnovers: 16 (Young 10, Murray 2, Okongwu 2, Collins, Hunter). Steals: 9 (Young 4, Bogdanovic 2, Murray 2, Okongwu). Technical Fouls: Young, 4:20 fourth.

Miami	**26**	**24**	**30**	**33—113**
Atlanta	**38**	**32**	**21**	**30—121**

A—18,007. T—2:23.

Celtics 130, Hornets 118

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Horford	30	3-8	0-0	1-3	3	1	8
Tatum	40	15-23	14-14	1-9	5	3	51
Williams III	27	4-5	0-0	2-9	3	0	8
Smart	30	4-8	1-2	1-4	6	4	10
White	30	5-11	6-6	1-3	8	2	19
Brogdon	27	6-13	0-0	0-4	2	3	16
G.Williams	21	3-12	1-1	5-9	6	3	9
Pritchard	12	1-4	0-0	0-0	0	2	3
Kornet	11	2-2	2-2	2-3	0	2	6
Hauser	7	0-1	0-0	1-3	1	1	0
Totals		**43-87**	**24-25**	**14-47**	**34**	**21**	**130**

Shooting: Field goals, 49.4%; free throws, 96.0%

Three-point goals: 20-43 (Tatum 7-12, Brogdon 4-8, White 3-7, G.Williams 2-4, Horford 2-4, Pritchard 1-3, Smart 1-4, Hauser 0-1). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (G.Williams, Kornet, Smart, Williams III). Turnovers: 11 (Tatum 4, Smart 3, G.Williams 2, White, Williams III). Steals: 1 (Horford). Technical Fouls: None.

CHARLOTTE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
McDaniels	35	9-15	3-3	2-3	1	1	26
Washington	36	5-9	5-6	1-4	3	2	17
Plumlee	31	7-9	5-9	6-12	7	3	19
Ball	34	8-23	4-4	2-5	6	5	25
Rozier	36	6-17	1-2	1-3	7	1	14
Smith Jr.	24	3-10	2-2	0-1	1	4	8
M.Williams	16	3-4	3-4	1-6	0	1	9
McGowens	12	0-1	0-0	0-3	0	1	0
Thor	11	0-2	0-0	0-1	1	0	0
Totals		**41-90**	**23-30**	**13-38**	**26**	**18**	**118**

Shooting: Field goals, 45.6%; free throws, 76.7%

Three-point goals: 13-31 (McDaniels 5-7, Ball 5-12, Washington 2-3, Rozier 1-4, Thor 0-1, Smith Jr. 0-4). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Washington 2). Turnovers: 5 (Ball 2, McDaniels, Plumlee, Washington). Steals: 7 (Rozier 3, McDaniels 2, Smith Jr., Washington). Technical Fouls: McDaniels, 4:56 third.

Boston	**35**	**31**	**26**	**38—130**
Charlotte	**22**	**33**	**31**	**32—118**

A—19,227. T—2:06.

Jazz 126, Timberwolves 125

UTAH

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Beasley	33	4-10	1-2	1-4	2	2	10
Vanderbilt	26	4-5	7-8	2-8	4	4	15
Kessler	31	9-13	2-4	9-21	4	1	20
Clarkson	33	6-16	5-6	0-1	1	0	21
Conley	30	5-8	1-1	1-8	6	0	14
Agbaji	31	6-8	2-2	1-2	0	1	17
Sexton	26	7-10	5-5	0-4	4	3	19
Gay	10	0-4	0-0	0-1	1	0	0
Alexandr-Walkr	10	2-3	0-0	0-1	2	0	5
Horton-Tucker	8	2-7	0-0	0-0	1	1	5
Totals		**45-84**	**23-28**	**14-50**	**25**	**12**	**126**

Shooting: Field goals, 53.6%; free throws, 82.1%

Three-point goals: 13-34 (Clarkson 4-10, Agbaji 3-4, Conley 3-6, Alexander-Walker 1-2, Horton-Tucker 1-4, Beasley 1-6, Gay 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Kessler 2, Agbaji, Clarkson, Vanderbilt). Turnovers: 18 (Alexander-Walker 3, Beasley 3, Clarkson 3, Sexton 3, Vanderbilt 3, Agbaji, Horton-Tucker, Kessler). Steals: 0 Technical Fouls: None.

MINNESOTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anderson	34	6-12	0-0	3-11	10	4	13
McDaniels	20	2-8	0-0	3-5	2	5	5
Gobert	4	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Edwards	36	10-25	5-5	0-4	5	1	29
Russell	30	6-11	6-6	1-1	7	1	21
Rivers	27	4-7	0-0	0-3	1	3	10
Prince	22	4-7	2-2	0-2	0	0	12
Nowell	21	6-11	2-2	1-2	1	1	16
Reid	21	3-8	0-0	4-7	0	5	7
Garza	10	1-7	0-2	4-4	1	0	3
Knight	9	3-4	0-1	0-1	1	0	7
Totals		**46-101**	**15-18**	**16-41**	**28**	**20**	**125**

Shooting: Field goals, 45.5%; free throws, 83.3%

Three-point goals: 18-41 (Edwards 4-10, Russell 3-6, Prince 2-3, Rivers 2-4, Nowell 2-5, Anderson 1-2, Garza 1-2, Knight 1-2, McDaniels 1-3, Reid 1-4). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Prince 2, Reid 2, Anderson, Russell). Turnovers: 5 (Edwards 2, McDaniels, Reid, Russell). Steals: 9 (Edwards 3, McDaniels 2, Anderson, Garza, Knight, Prince). Technical Fouls: Prince, 6:17 third

Utah	**27**	**25**	**35**	**39—126**
Minnesota	**27**	**31**	**37**	**30—125**

A—16,477. T—2:14.

Cavaliers 113, Pelicans 103

NEW ORLEANS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Marshall	35	7-12	0-0	0-3	3	2	14
Murphy III	33	7-14	0-0	1-2	2	1	17
Valanciunas	34	7-9	7-9	2-13	2	3	22
Daniels	28	2-4	0-0	0-3	4	3	4
McCollum	35	8-20	6-8	0-0	4	1	25
Alvarado	33	4-8	0-0	0-3	5	3	10
Nance Jr.	14	2-3	0-0	0-3	3	3	4
Graham	14	1-4	3-3	0-1	3	3	6
Hayes	9	0-1	1-2	0-0	0	4	1
Totals		**38-75**	**17-22**	**3-28**	**26**	**23**	**103**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.7%; free throws, 77.3%

Three-point goals: 10-27 (Murphy III 3-6, McCollum 3-9, Alvarado 2-4, Valanciunas 1-1, Graham 1-4, Marshall 0-1, Daniels 0-2). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 1 (Valanciunas). Turnovers: 17 (McCollum 4, Valanciunas 4, Daniels 3, Marshall 2, Murphy III 2, Alvarado, Hayes). Steals: 9 (Daniels 4, Alvarado 3, Murphy III, Nance Jr.). Technical Fouls: McCollum, 1:14 fourth.

CLEVELAND

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
E.Mobley	39	8-10	3-4	1-8	0	2	19
Okoro	28	4-8	1-2	0-4	1	1	11
Allen	37	9-12	6-6	7-11	5	2	24
Garland	40	9-22	7-7	2-6	11	2	30
Mitchell	21	3-9	3-3	0-1	0	1	11
Stevens	19	1-2	1-2	1-4	0	2	3
Rubio	16	1-4	0-0	0-1	0	4	2
Love	15	1-7	2-2	2-8	3	2	4
LeVert	15	3-5	2-5	0-0	2	2	8
Osman	5	0-1	1-2	0-0	0	1	1
Totals		**39-80**	**26-33**	**13-43**	**22**	**19**	**113**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.8%; free throws, 78.8%

Three-point goals: 9-28 (Garland 5-10, Okoro 2-4, Mitchell 2-6, LeVert 0-1, Stevens 0-1, Rubio 0-2, Love 0-4). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Allen, E.Mobley, Mitchell, Stevens). Turnovers: 15 (Mitchell 4, E.Mobley 2, Garland 2, LeVert 2, Love 2, Allen, Okoro, Stevens). Steals: 5 (Allen 2, Okoro 2, Garland). Technical Fouls: None.

New Orleans	**25**	**25**	**31**	**22—103**
Cleveland	**24**	**23**	**31**	**35—113**

A—19,432. T—2:15.

Grizzlies 136, Suns 106

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Craig	25	2-7	0-0	0-1	1	3	4
Saric	23	4-9	2-2	2-7	5	3	12
Ayton	30	8-11	2-2	1-5	1	4	18
Bridges	29	8-16	4-4	0-4	7	1	21
Shamet	25	2-9	4-4	0-4	6	2	9
S.Lee	28	3-9	3-4	1-2	3	3	10
D.Lee	25	3-11	0-0	0-2	9	2	8
Wainright	15	1-4	0-0	1-3	1	1	2
Landale	13	1-2	3-3	2-3	0	2	5
Biyombo	12	4-5	0-0	2-5	0	1	8
Okogie	9	3-6	0-0	0-1	0	0	9
Totals		**39-89**	**18-19**	**9-37**	**33**	**22**	**106**

Shooting: Field goals, 43.8%; free throws, 94.7%

Three-point goals: 10-33 (Okogie 3-5, D.Lee 2-4, Saric 2-5, S.Lee 1-2, Bridges 1-3, Shamet 1-6, Landale 0-1, Wainright 0-3, Craig 0-4). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Biyombo 2, Bridges, Wainright). Turnovers: 15 (Bridges 3, Saric 3, Ayton 2, D.Lee 2,

Field is cut to elite eight

[**Farmer,** from B10]
with the Cowboys beating the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl.

In other divisional games:

Jacksonville returns to Kansas City, where it lost in Week 10.

The Giants face Philadelphia for a third time, having been swept by the Eagles in the regular season.

Cincinnati plays at Buffalo in a rematch of a game that was suspended this month after Bills safety Damar Hamlin suffered heart failure.

The only "new" matchup is Cowboys at 49ers.

This after every game in the wild-card round was a rematch from the regular season.

But as Giants coach Brian Daboll pointed out to reporters Monday, whereas there are elements to be learned from those previous meetings, those games have no bearing moving forward.

"Every game's a new game," he said. "Obviously, you have matchups that you've went against here over the last two times you played them. One week really has nothing to do with the next week, or one game has nothing with the next game, other than you take things from it, you learned from it, you try to grow from it.

"But it's going to be how we execute on Saturday and how we prepare throughout the week. That's our process — it'll always be — and that's what it'll be this week."

Both of those Giants-Eagles games happened in the final five weeks of the regular season. The Giants have gone L, W, L, W, L, W starting with the first matchup.

The Eagles, who are favored by a touchdown, have history on their side. This is the 25th time that a team has swept a division rival and then met that opponent again in the postseason. In 15 of the previous 24 games, the team that went 2-0 during the regular season won the third game.

The Giants have not won at Lincoln Financial Field in nine seasons. In 10 career games against the Giants, Eagles running back Boston Scott has 10 touchdowns.

Meanwhile, Jacksonville made a turnaround after dropping to 3-7 with a 27-17 loss at Kansas City. The Jaguars have gone 7-1 since, including Saturday night's against-all-odds comeback against the Chargers, who had built a 27-point lead in the second quarter before ultimately losing 31-30.

In that loss to the Chiefs, the Jaguars missed two field-goal tries and had a touchdown pass wiped out by a penalty.

Against the Chargers, the Jaguars saw four passes by Trevor Lawrence get picked off in the first half and found themselves in a deep hole.

"We just have to execute better," coach Doug Pederson told reporters. "We've got to take care of the football. We can't do what we did the other night and expect to win, not against this team. We'll take a look at it and make some adjustments for the week."

Pederson will match wits with one of his mentors, Chiefs coach Andy Reid. Both men were coaches in Philadelphia, with Pederson leading the Eagles to their only Lombardi Trophy five years ago.

The four remaining quarterbacks in the AFC represent the next generation of NFL superstars: Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes, Jacksonville's Lawrence, Cincinnati's Joe Burrow and Buffalo's Josh Allen.

The Buffalo-Cincinnati game Jan. 2 was suspended in the first quarter with the Bengals leading 7-3.

This time, after a bruising wild-card game against Baltimore, the Bengals could be down three starting offensive linemen. That's worrisome against a Buffalo defense that collected four sacks in its playoff opener against Miami.

If the AFC championship game were to wind up Kansas City versus Buffalo, that game would be played in Atlanta. A neutral site was selected because the Bills could have been the No. 1 seed — instead of Kansas City — had their game against Cincinnati been played to completion.

CHRIS O'MEARA Associated Press

QUARTERBACK Tom Brady, 45, and the Buccaneers had little to smile about in a 31-14 wild-card loss to the Cowboys in what could be Brady's final game.

Prescott helps Cowboys roll to wild-card win

Quarterback accounts for five touchdowns to steal show in what may be Brady's finale.

DALLAS 31
TAMPA BAY 14

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA, Fla. — So much for the notion that Dak Prescott and the Dallas Cowboys might not be up to the challenge of beating Tom Brady.

Prescott played his best game in weeks, throwing for four touchdowns and running for an additional score to answer critics of "America's Team" with a 31-14 rout of Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in an NFC wild-card playoff game Monday.

"It just shows he's resilient," Cowboys linebacker Micah Parsons said. "The light's different on Dak. I think the criticism is unfair and unjust sometimes."

Prescott completed 25 of 33 passes for 305 yards and played turnover-free ball for the first time in eight games as the Cowboys dominated the listless Buccaneers in what might turn out to be Brady's last game in a Tampa Bay uniform.

"Not the way we wanted to end it," Brady said. "Kind of typical of the way we played all season."

Dallas beat Brady for the first time in the seven-time Super Bowl champion's career and won in the postseason on the road for the first time in 30 years to earn a trip to San Francisco to face the 49ers in the NFC divisional round Sunday.

The Cowboys had dropped eight straight playoff games away from home since winning the NFC championship game in San Francisco on Jan. 17, 1993.

They were also coming off a poor performance in a lopsided regular season-ending loss at Washington.

"Didn't listen," Prescott said of the talk about the Cowboys not being ready for the playoffs. "Simply just didn't listen to anybody else's opinions. ... Got a great supporting cast in my team, people that believe in me."

About the only thing that went wrong for the Cowboys was kicker Brett Maher missing his first four extra-point tries, becoming the first player in NFL history to miss that many in a game. Maher finally converted on his fifth attempt after coach Mike McCarthy decided against sending him out to try a field goal from roughly the same distance as a PAT.

Tampa Bay wide receiver Russell Gage was strapped to a backboard and carted off the field late in the fourth quarter. Gage slipped and fell to the turf while running a route and took a blow to the neck as he went down. He was unable to get to his feet, and silence fell over the stadium as medical personnel tended to him.

Coach Todd Bowles said Gage was taken to a hospital with a concussion and was being evaluated for a neck injury.

Brady, who signed with Tampa Bay in 2020 and led the Buccaneers to a Super Bowl title two years ago, will be a free agent this winter. He retired briefly last February before changing his mind and returning for a 23rd season at age 45.

Brady threw a career-high 66 passes, completing 35 for 351 yards. He had two touchdown throws.

Cowboys 31, Buccaneers 14

Dallas	6	12	6	7—31
Tampa Bay	0	0	6	8—14

First Quarter

Dal—Schultz 22 pass from Prescott (kick failed), 6:28.

Second Quarter

Dal—Prescott 1 run (kick failed), 6:13.
Dal—Schultz 11 pass from Prescott (kick failed), :27.

Third Quarter

Dal—Gallup 2 pass from Prescott (kick failed), 10:04.
TB—Jones 30 pass from Brady (pass failed), :00.

Fourth Quarter

Dal—Lamb 18 pass from Prescott (Maher kick), 10:13.
TB—Brate 8 pass from Brady (Evans pass from Brady), 2:04.

STATISTICS

TEAM	Dal	TB
First downs	26	24
Total Net Yards	425	386
Rushes-yards	35-128	12-52
Passing	297	334
Punt Returns	2-7	3-34
Kickoff Returns	1-35	3-58
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	25-33-0	35-66-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-8	2-17
Punts	4-47.25	5-49.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	2-15	3-34
Time of Possession	35:30	24:30

Individual Leaders

RUSHING: Dallas, Pollard 15-77, Elliott 13-27, Prescott 7-24. Tampa Bay, R.White 7-41, Fournette 5-11.

PASSING: Dallas, Prescott 25-33-0-305. Tampa Bay, Brady 35-66-1-351.

RECEIVING: Dallas, Schultz 7-95, Gallup 5-46, Lamb 4-68, Pollard 3-12, Hilton 2-23, N.Brown 2-18, Ferguson 1-34, Elliott 1-9. Tampa Bay, Godwin 10-85, Jones 7-74, Evans 6-74, Otton 4-58, R.White 4-36, Gage 2-10, Brate 1-8, Fournette 1-6.

FIELD GOALS MISSED: None.

Chargers face difficult choices

[**Chargers,** from B10]
advance by being named to the Pro Bowl and setting numerous franchise records.

But this season, the Chargers struggled running the ball and establishing consistency on offense as injuries made things more difficult.

As the Chargers continue to sort through the evaluation of the season, the franchise is looking at several significant decisions in the coming months.

There is no bigger topic than a possible extension for Herbert. The Chargers' dynamic quarterback is eligible for a second contract.

Any deal for Herbert likely would come in somewhere around $50 million in annual average, with perhaps $200 million or so in total guarantees.

The timing of any Herbert contract could be directly tied to Cincinnati's Joe Burrow, who also will be eligible for an extension this offseason. Burrow was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 draft; Herbert was taken five spots later.

A Burrow extension would clearly define the parameters of a Herbert extension, meaning the Chargers quarterback and his representatives might be willing to wait.

Signing Herbert as soon as possible would seem to be the most advantageous approach for the Chargers since his price probably isn't going to go down with the passing of time.

Another important decision awaits with wide receiver Keenan Allen, whose contract construction makes him a candidate to be cut. Allen turns 31 in April and is coming off a season in which he missed seven games because of a hamstring injury.

But parting ways with Allen would mean having to replace a lot of production, which the Chargers could try to do with Joshua Palmer and — presumably — a 2023 draft pick.

A point to remember about Allen and his potential future value is that he isn't a receiver who relies on speed, suggesting he might age better than most at the position.

When it comes to other possible moves to free salary-cap space, the Chargers could release left guard Matt Feiler (and replace him with Jamaree Salyer) or restructure the contract of edge rusher Joey Bosa.

Kicker Dustin Hopkins also is a candidate to be cut, particularly with the emergence of Cameron Dicker during his rookie season.

The Chargers' unrestricted free agents include: linebackers Drue Tranquill and Kyle Van Noy, offensive tackle, Trey Pipkins III, safety Nasir Adderley, cornerback Bryce Callahan, defensive end Morgan Fox and receiver DeAndre Carter.

Both of the quarterbacks backing up Herbert — Chase Daniel and Easton Stick — also are set to be unrestricted free agents, as are defensive end Christian Covington, punter JK Scott and linebacker Troy Reeder.

CHRIS CARLSON Associated Press

JUSTIN HERBERT is eligible for a new contract that could command around $50 million annually.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Times Pacific

WILD-CARD ROUND:

Saturday

NFC: No. 2 San Francisco 41, No. 7 Seattle 23
AFC: No. 4 Jacksonville 31, No. 5 CHARGERS 30

Sunday

AFC: No. 2 Buffalo 34, No. 7 Miami 31
NFC: No. 6 N.Y. Giants 31, No. 3 Minnesota 24
AFC: No. 3 Cincinnati 24, No. 6 Baltimore 17

Monday

NFC: No. 5 Dallas 31, No. 4 Tampa Bay 14

DIVISIONAL ROUND:

Saturday

AFC: No. 4 Jacksonville at No. 1 Kansas City ..... 1:30 (Ch. 4)
NFC: No. 6 N.Y. Giants at No. 1 Philadelphia ..... 5:15 (Ch. 11)

Sunday

AFC: No. 3 Cincinnati at No. 2 Buffalo ..... Noon (Ch. 2)
NFC: No. 5 Dallas at No. 2 San Francisco ..... 3:30 (Ch. 11)

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Jan. 29

NFC ..... Noon (Ch. 11)
AFC ..... 3:30 (Ch. 2)

SUPER BOWL LVII: Feb. 12

at State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Ariz.
AFC winner vs. NFC winner ..... 3:30 p.m. (Ch. 11)

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Sparks acquire veteran Thomas in trade with Sun

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Sparks began their offseason roster rebuild Monday by acquiring veteran guard **Jasmine Thomas** in a trade with the Connecticut Sun.

Thomas, a 12-year veteran who played seven seasons with the Sun under new Sparks coach **Curt Miller**, was acquired along with the 10th overall pick in this year's WNBA draft. The Sparks sent center **Olivia Nelson-Ododa**, forward **Jasmine Walker** and the rights to guard **Kianna Smith** to the Sun.

Thomas has career averages of 9.6 points, 3.7 assists, 2.8 rebounds and 1.1 steals. The former Duke star was chosen 12th in the 2011 draft by Seattle before she was traded to Washington. After playing two seasons with the Mystics and two more with Atlanta, Thomas was traded to Connecticut in 2015.

Thomas, an All-Star in 2017, was selected to the WNBA all-defensive first team from 2017 to 2019. She was limited to five games last season because of a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee.

The Sparks now own the 10th, 14th and 26th picks in this year's draft.

— DAN LOUMENA

The Sun traded forward **Jonquel Jones**, the 2021 WNBA most valuable player, to New York as part of a three-team deal that included Dallas. Connecticut received the No. 6 pick in this year's draft from the Liberty as part of the trade.

Jayson Tatum scored 51 points, and the visiting Boston Celtics beat the Charlotte Hornets 130-118. ... **Ja Morant** scored 29 points, and host Memphis extended its winning streak to 10 with a 136-106 victory over injury-depleted Phoenix. ... **Stephen Curry** scored 41 points in Golden State's 127-118 win at Washington. ... **Jrue Holiday** had 35 points and 11 assists, and host Milwaukee beat Indiana 132-119 without **Giannis Antetokounmpo** (left knee soreness). ... Atlanta promoted **Kyle Korver** to assistant general manager.

ETC.

Charbonnet is headed for draft

In an expected move, UCLA running back **Zach Charbonnet** announced via social media that he would declare for the NFL draft.

After transferring from Michigan to spend his final two college seasons with the Bruins, Charbonnet was the leading rusher in the Pac-12 Conference with 135.9 yards per game this past season.

— BEN BOLCH

Ohio State quarterback **C.J. Stroud**, a former Rancho Cucamonga High star, will give up his final year of eligibility to enter the NFL draft.

Michigan coach **Jim Harbaugh** is staying put, a decision he gave to school president **Santa Ono** to end another round of speculation that he would return to the NFL. ... A former Mississippi and NFL defensive tackle was arrested on kidnapping charges. **Jerrell Powe**, 35, remained jailed in Ridgeland, Miss., with no bail set.

The Carolina Panthers received permission from New Orleans to interview **Sean Payton** for their head coaching position. Payton walked away as Saints coach after the 2021 season, but his contract doesn't expire until after the 2024 season. ... Arizona hired **Monti Ossenfort** as GM. He had been Tennessee's director of player personnel.

Rinat Akhmetov, owner of Ukrainian soccer club Shakhtar Donetsk, pledged to give $25 million to help the families of soldiers who defended the city of Mariupol when it was attacked by the Russian military. ... An Indonesian court began the trial of five men on charges of negligence leading to the deaths of 135 people after police fired tear gas inside a soccer stadium Oct. 1, setting off a panicked run for the exits in which many were crushed.

USA Water Polo announced two-time Olympic silver medalist **Peter Campbell** died at 62. Campbell helped UC Irvine win national titles in 1980 and 1982.

Vegas Golden Knights goalie **Robin Lehner** and his wife filed for bankruptcy in Nevada, citing up to $50 million in debts. ... The Minnesota Wild signed forward **Matt Boldy** to a seven-year, $49-million extension.

The IOC announced a rights deal through 2032 with the European Broadcasting Union.

Frank Thomas, a three-time All-Star with his hometown Pittsburgh Pirates who later became the top hitter on the expansion New York Mets, died at 93.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Rublev defeats wild-card Thiem

He eliminates former runner-up in straight sets. Sabalenka stays unbeaten on the year.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andrey Rublev beat wild-card entry Dominic Thiem 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 on Tuesday to book his place in the second round of the Australian Open.

Thiem, a runner-up at the Australian Open in 2020 and the U.S. Open winner the same year, missed much of 2021 because of injuries but has recovered from outside the top 350 last year to a place just inside the top 100. He was given a wild-card entry by tournament organizers.

"When you see you have to play against Dominic you know it's not going to be easy. I know he's going through some not easy times so I wish him all the best to come back to the level he can be as fast as possible," Rublev said.

Thiem had treatment to his abdominal muscles midway through the second set but said it was not serious and he was not disheartened by his performance.

"This tournament doesn't change anything because I just had a really tough opponent," he said. "I hope that I can improve the results at the South American clay."

No. 5 Aryna Sabalenka maintained her unbeaten start to the year with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Tereza Martincova. Sabalenka, who won the Adelaide International title in the first week of the year, hit 29 winners to her opponent's seven as she won her fifth consecutive match.

"It wasn't that easy, I'm super happy to start with the win," Sabalenka said. "I have to work on my mindset and stay calm and not get too upset when I make mistakes. I really believe this is the only thing missing in my game."

Rafael Nadal struggled in his pursuit of a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam championship with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over 21-year-old Jack Draper that took more than 3½ hours in Rod Laver Arena.

"I need a victory, so that's the main thing," Nadal said. "Doesn't matter the way."

Garbine Muguruza, the runner-up in Melbourne in 2020, lost her fifth consecutive match to start the year when she was beaten 3-6, 6-7 (3), 6-1 by Elise Mertens.

Off the court, Italy's Camila Giorgi denied allegations that she obtained a false COVID-19 vaccine certificate to allow her to travel after Giorgi's name was revealed in a long list of people implicated by an Italian newspaper.

Russia and Belarus flags banned

Flags from Russia and Belarus were banned from the site of the Australian Open after more than one was brought into the stands by spectators on Day 1.

Normally, flags can be displayed during matches at Melbourne Park. But Tennis Australia reversed that policy for the two countries involved in the invasion of Ukraine.

NG HAN GUAN Associated Press

ANDREY RUBLEV plays a forehand return to Dominic Thiem, who is on the road back after injuries curtailed his 2021 season and was given a wild-card entry.

RESULTS

$53-MILLION AUSTRALIAN OPEN
At Melbourne
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (first round)—Karen Khachanov (18), Russia, d. Bernabe Zapata Miralles, Spain, 7-6 (3), 6-2, 6-0. Mackenzie McDonald, U.S., d. Brandon Nakashima, U.S., 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1), 1-6, 6-7 (10), 6-4. Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, d. Borna Coric (21), Croatia, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. Frances Tiafoe (16), U.S., d. Daniel Altmaier, Germany, 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (6). Jason Kubler, Australia, d. Sebastian Baez, Argentina, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. Dalibor Svrcina, Czech Republic, d. Jaume Munar, Spain, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. Taro Daniel, Japan, d. Ernesto Escobedo, U.S., 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, d. Jack Draper, Britain, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, d. Nuno Borges, Portugal, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-1. Christopher Eubanks, U.S., d. Kwon Soon Woo, South Korea, 6-3, 6-7 (1), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. John Millman, Australia, d. Marc-Andrea Huesler, Switzerland, 6-7 (8), 7-5, 6-7 (2), 6-2, 6-3. Cameron Norrie (11), Britain, d. Luca van Assche, France, 7-6 (3), 6-0, 6-3. Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, d. Federico Coria, Argentina, 4-6, 7-5, 2-6, 7-6 (6), 6-2. Stefanos Tsitsipas (3), Greece, d. Quentin Halys, France, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (6). Alex Molcan, Slovakia, d. Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4. Constant Lestienne, France, d. Thiago Monteiro, Brazil, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-3. Rinky Hijikata, Australia, d. Yannick Hanfmann, Germany, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3. Felix Auger-Aliassime (6), Canada, d. Vasek Pospisil, Canada, 1-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3. Lloyd Harris, South Africa, d. Lorenzo Musetti (17), Italy, 6-4, 6-1, 6-7 (0), 2-6, 7-6 (4). Daniil Medvedev (7), Russia, d. Marcos Giron, United States, 6-0, 6-1, 6-2. Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, d. Dominic Thiem, Austria, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.Grigor Dimitrov (27), Bulgaria, d. Aslan Karatsev, Russia, 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-2. Laslo Djere, Serbia, d. Zizou Bergs, Belgium, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4, 6-1. Taylor Fritz (8), U.S., d. Nikoloz Basilashvili, Georgia, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (first round)—Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, d. CoCo Vandeweghe, U.S., 6-3, 6-1. Jelena Ostapenko (17), Latvia, d. Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-2. Zheng Qinwen (29), China, d. Dalma Galfi, Hungary, 6-0, 6-2. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, d. Brenda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-2. Barbora Krejcikova (20), Czech Republic, d. Sara Bejlek, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-1. Victoria Azarenka (24), Belarus, d. Sofia Kenin, U.S., 6-4, 7-6 (3). Anna Bondar, Hungary, d. Ana Bogdan, Romania, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. Camila Osorio, Colombia, d. Panna Udvardy, Hungary, 6-4, 6-1. Kateryna Baindl, Ukraine, d. Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, 7-5, 6-7 (8), 6-1. Caty McNally, U.S., d. Laura Pigossi, Brazil, 7-5, 6-1. Nadia Podoroska, Argentina, d. Leolia Jeanjean, France, 6-0, 6-3. Elena Rybakina (22), Kazakhstan, d. Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, 7-5, 6-3. Zhu Lin, China, d. Rebecca Marino, Canada, 6-2, 6-4. Jil Teichmann (32), Switzerland, d. Harriet Dart, Britain, 7-5, 6-1. Kaja Juvan, Slovenia, d. Selena Janicijevic, France, 7-5, 6-1. Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, d. Jule Niemeier, Germany, 6-4, 7-5. Wang Xinyu, China, d. Storm Sanders, Australia, 7-6 (2), 6-4. Madison Keys (10), U.S., d. Anna Blinkova, Russia, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Ekaterina Alexandrova (19), Russia, def. Ysaline Bonaventure, Belgium, 6-2, 6-1. Camila Giorgi, Italy, d. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, 6-0, 6-1. Taylor Townsend, U.S., d. Diane Parry, France, 6-1, 6-1. Anna-Karolina Schmiedlova, Slovakia, d. Martina Trevisan (21), Italy, 6-3, 6-2. Aryna Sabalenka (5), Belarus, d. Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-4. Shelby Rogers, U.S., d. Arianne Hartono, Netherlands, 6-4, 6-3. Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, d. Alize Cornet, France, 7-5, 6-2. Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, d. Jaimee Fourlis, Australia, 6-0, 6-4. Kimberly Birrell, Australia, d. Kaia Kanepi (31), Estonia, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1. Elise Mertens (26), Belgium, d. Garbine Muguruza, Spain, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1. Caroline Garcia (4), France, d. Katherine Sebov, Canada, 6-3, 6-0. Karolina Pliskova (30), Czech Republic, d. Wang Xiyu, China, 6-1, 6-3. Katie Volynets, U.S., d. Evgeniya Rodina, Russia, 6-3, 6-2.

PRO CALENDAR

	TUE 17	WED 18	THU 19	FRI 20	SAT 21
LAKERS		**SAC.** 7:30 SpecSN		**MEMPHIS** 7 ESPN, SpecSN	
CLIPPERS	**PHILA.** 7 TNT	**at Utah** 6 BSSC		**at San Antonio** 5 BSSC	
KINGS			**DALLAS** 7:30 BSW		**at Nashville** 5 BSW
DUCKS	**at Philadelphia** 4 BSSC		**at Columbus** 4 BSSC		**at Buffalo** 9:30 a.m. BSSC

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASKETBALL		
4:30 p.m.	Toronto at Milwaukee	**TV:** TNT
5 p.m.	G League, Rio Grande Valley at Birmingham	**TV:** NBA
7 p.m.	Philadelphia at Clippers	**TV:** TNT **R:** 570, 1330
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
3:30 p.m.	Mississippi at South Carolina	**TV:** SEC
4 p.m.	Kansas at Kansas State	**TV:** ESPN
4 p.m.	Tennessee at Mississippi State	**TV:** ESPN2
4 p.m.	Boston College at North Carolina	**TV:** BSW
4 p.m.	Creighton at Butler	**TV:** FS1
4 p.m.	Davidson at Dayton	**TV:** CBSSN
4 p.m.	Florida State at Notre Dame	**TV:** ESPNU
4 p.m.	North Carolina State at Georgia Tech	**TV:** ACC
5:30 p.m.	Penn State at Wisconsin	**TV:** Big Ten
5:30 p.m.	Alabama at Vanderbilt	**TV:** SEC
6 p.m.	Georgia at Kentucky	**TV:** ESPN
6 p.m.	Clemson at Wake Forest	**TV:** BSW
6 p.m.	San Jose State at New Mexico	**TV:** FS1
6 p.m.	Murray State at Belmont	**TV:** CBSSN
6 p.m.	Baylor at Texas Tech	**TV:** ESPNU
COLLEGE WRESTLING		
11:30 a.m.	Princeton at Arizona State	**TV:** Pac-12
HOCKEY		
9 a.m.	European Champions League, Frolunda at Lulea	**TV:** NHL
4 p.m.	Ducks at Philadelphia	**TV:** BSSC **R:** Duck Stream
SOCCER		
7:45 a.m.	African Nations Cup, Mozambique at Libya	**TV:** beINextra
10:45 a.m.	African Nations Cup, Algeria at Ethiopia	**TV:** beINextra
3 p.m.	Rio de Plata Series, San Lorenzo vs. Penarol	**TV:** GOLTV
7 p.m.	Women, friendly, U.S. vs. New Zealand	**TV:** HBO Max
TENNIS		
4 p.m.	Australian Open, second round	**TV:** ESPND
6 p.m.	Australian Open, second round	**TV:** ESPN2
WINTER SPORTS: WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES		
7 a.m.	Speed skating	**TV:** ESPNU

NHL STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	28	15	2	58	147	130
Seattle	26	13	4	56	159	134
KINGS	25	15	6	56	154	157
Edmonton	24	18	3	51	164	149
Calgary	21	15	9	51	140	135
Vancouver	18	22	3	39	149	170
San Jose	13	23	9	35	137	172
DUCKS	12	27	5	29	103	185
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Winnipeg	29	14	1	59	147	114
Dallas	26	12	7	59	156	119
Minnesota	24	14	4	52	134	118
Colorado	22	17	3	47	131	121
St. Louis	22	20	3	47	141	160
Nashville	20	17	6	46	120	127
Arizona	13	25	5	31	115	158
Chicago	11	26	4	26	94	154

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	27	9	8	62	141	120
New Jersey	29	12	3	61	156	116
N.Y. Rangers	25	13	7	57	144	120
Washington	24	16	6	54	148	129
Pittsburgh	22	15	6	50	139	130
N.Y. Islanders	23	18	4	50	136	124
Philadelphia	18	19	7	43	122	143
Columbus	13	28	2	28	110	170
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Boston	34	5	4	72	166	94
Toronto	26	11	7	59	147	117
Tampa Bay	28	13	1	57	152	122
Florida	21	20	4	46	148	153
Buffalo	21	19	2	44	160	146
Detroit	18	17	7	43	131	145
Ottawa	19	21	3	41	126	139
Montreal	18	23	3	39	116	162

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

RESULTS

AT PITTSBURGH 4 DUCKS 3 (OT)	Jake Guentzel won it in overtime to finish a Penguins rally after Trevor Zegras gave the Ducks a late 3-2 lead.
AT BOSTON 6 PHILADELPHIA 0	Jeremy Swayman earned his first shutout this season and David Krejci had three assists in his 1,000th game.
FLORIDA 4 AT BUFFALO 1	Carter Verhaeghe reached the 20-goal mark and had an assist as the Panthers got their third win in four games.
AT COLORADO 6 DETROIT 3	Cale Makar and Nathan MacKinnon each scored twice and Colorado notched its ninth straight win over Detroit.
TAMPA BAY 4 AT SEATTLE 1	The Lightning ended the Kraken's eight-game winning streak behind Andrei Vasilevskiy's 22 saves.
NEW JERSEY 4 AT SAN JOSE 3 (SO)	Tomas Tatar scored the shootout winner after Jack Hughes forced overtime with 8.6 seconds remaining in regulation.
DALLAS 4 AT VEGAS 0	Jake Oettinger made 27 saves as the Stars shut out the Golden Knights in ex-Vegas coach Pete DeBoer's return.
N.Y. RANGERS 3 AT COLUMBUS 1	Barclay Goodrow had a goal and an assist to lead New York, which held Columbus to two first-period shots.
WASHINGTON 4 AT N.Y. ISLANDERS 3 (OT)	Dmitry Orlov snapped a shot past Ilya Sorokin late in overtime after the Capitals overcame a 3-0 deficit.
AT NASHVILLE 2 CALGARY 1	Juuse Saros made 21 of his 38 saves in the third period and Juuso Parssinen scored the winner for Nashville.
AT ST. LOUIS 2 OTTAWA 1	Jordan Binnington made 31 saves to back goals by Jake Neighbours and Noel Acciari as the Blues held on.

TODAY'S GAMES

DUCKS at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.	Florida at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 4 p.m.	Winnipeg at Montreal, 4 p.m.
Columbus at Nashville, 5 p.m.	Buffalo at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 6 p.m.	Seattle at Edmonton, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 4 p.m.	Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 4:30 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 6:30 p.m.	Dallas at San Jose, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Vancouver, 7 p.m.	

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Dallas at KINGS, 7:30 p.m.	DUCKS at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.	Chicago at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Florida at Montreal, 4 p.m.	Minnesota at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Winnipeg at Toronto, 4 p.m.	N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 4:30 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 5 p.m.	Tampa Bay at Edmonton, 6 p.m.
Washington at Arizona, 6 p.m.	Detroit at Vegas, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Seattle, 7 p.m.	

GENE J. PUSKAR Associated Press

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS star Jake Guentzel nets the winning goal past Ducks goaltender John Gibson.

Ducks fall short of stunner in overtime

PITTSBURGH 4 DUCKS 3 (OT)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — Jake Guentzel scored 33 seconds into overtime and the Pittsburgh Penguins staged a late rally to pull out a 4-3 win over the Ducks on Monday.

The Penguins squandered a third-period lead but Bryan Rust tied it with 25 seconds remaining in regulation and Guentzel won it with his 18th goal of the season as Pittsburgh snapped a two-game slide.

The Ducks had the first chance in the extra period when Zegras broke in all alone on Casey DeSmith. Yet rather than shoot, Zegras tried a drop pass to Cam Fowler that Fowler couldn't convert.

"Give up one late, then I make a stupid pass in overtime, [they] go down the ice and score," Zegras said.

Jason Zucker scored his 11th goal on his 31st birthday and Evgeni Malkin added his 15th for Pittsburgh. DeSmith stopped 26 shots to win for just the second time in his last seven starts.

John Klingberg's shorthanded goal with 8:46 left in regulation pulled the Ducks even and when Trevor Zegras pounded home a shot from the slot a little more than four minutes later, the Ducks found themselves with a chance to get just their fifth road win.

Pittsburgh turned up the pressure late and Rust broke through to help the Penguins escape.

Adam Henrique also scored for the Ducks. John Gibson, a Pittsburgh native, played well in his return to his hometown. Gibson stopped 42 shots but didn't have an answer when Guentzel broke in on him late and scored with a wrist shot from in close.

PENGUINS 4, DUCKS 3 (OT)

DUCKS	1	0	2	0	– 3
Pittsburgh	1	1	1	1	– 4

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Pit., Zucker 11 (Rakell, Malkin), 4:16. 2. DUCKS, Henrique 14 (Terry, McTavish), 17:50 (pp). **Penalties—**Shattenkirk, ANA (Roughing), 4:58. Friedman, PIT (Roughing), 17:04.

SECOND PERIOD: 3. Pit., Malkin 15 (Zucker, Rakell), 8:46. **Penalties—**Silfverberg, ANA (Hooking), 12:51. Kulikov, ANA (Cross Checking), 13:11. Guentzel, PIT (Hooking), 14:14. Smith, PIT (Cross Checking), 19:18.

THIRD PERIOD: 4. DUCKS, Klingberg 6 (Zegras, Terry), 11:16 (pp). 5. DUCKS, Zegras 14 (Strome), 15:40. 6. Pit., Rust 10 (Rakell, Guentzel), 19:35. **Penalties—**Shattenkirk, ANA (High Sticking), 9:11. Rakell, PIT (Tripping), 9:51.

OVERTIME: 7. Pit., Guentzel 18 (Crosby), 0:33. **Penalties—**None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: DUCKS 15-9-4-1–29. Pit. 12-17-15-1–45. Power-play Conversions—DUCKS 2 of 4. Pit. 0 of 4.

GOALIES: DUCKS, Gibson 7-19-4 (45 shots-41 saves). Pit., DeSmith 6-9-2 (29-26). Att—17,784 (18,387). T—2:27. R—Eric Furlatt, Corey Syvret. L—Tyson Baker, Ryan Galloway.

TOP 25 COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Purdue escapes with win, matching mark

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zach Edey made a go-ahead shot at the front of the rim with 2.2 seconds left and finished with a career-high 32 points and 17 rebounds to help No. 3 Purdue hold off host Michigan State for a 64-63 win Monday.

Purdue freshman guard Foster Loyer had 17 points, including the go-ahead free throw in a game that had the intensity of a matchup in March. The Boilermakers (17-1, 6-1 Big Ten) have won 17 of their first 18, matching the school mark set during the 1987-88 season.

Tyson Walker put the Spartans (12-6, 4-3) ahead with 11 seconds remaining with a midrange jumper for a season-high 30 points.

at No. 17 Miami 82, Syracuse 78: Norchad Omier had 16 points and 16 rebounds and Miami (14-3, 5-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) overcame a double-digit deficit. Harlond Beverly also scored 16 points for the Hurricanes. Jesse Edwards scored a career-high 25 points for the Orange (12-6, 5-2).

at No. 18 Charleston 82, William & Mary 54: Ante Brzovic scored 17 points as College of Charleston won its 18th straight. The Cougars (19-1, 7-0 Colonial Athletic Assn.), whose 19 wins are the most in Division I, extended the nation's longest winning streak and remained perfect at home (13-0).

AP men's top 25

School	W-L		
1. Houston (34)	17-1	13. Kansas State	15-2
2. Kansas (23)	16-1	14. Tex. Christian	14-3
3. Purdue (3)	16-1	15. Connecticut	15-4
4. Alabama	15-2	16. Auburn	14-3
5. UCLA	16-2	17. Miami (Fla.)	14-3
6. Gonzaga	16-3	18. Charleston	18-1
7. Texas	15-2	19. Clemson	15-3
8. Xavier	15-3	20. Marquette	14-5
9. Tennessee	14-3	21. Baylor	12-5
10. Virginia	13-3	22. Providence	14-4
11. Arizona	15-3	23. Rutgers	13-5
12. Iowa State	13-3	24. Fla. Atlantic	16-1
		25. Arkansas	12-5

MEN'S TOP 25 RESULTS

No. 3 Purdue 64, Michigan State 63
No. 16 Miami 82, Syracuse 78
No. 18 Charleston 82, William & Mary 54
No. 24 Florida Atlantic 76, Western Kentucky 62

Baylor's run ends

Baylor's 19-year run in the Associated Press women's poll is over. The Bears had been ranked for 365 consecutive polls before falling out after losing Wednesday and Sunday. South Carolina remained No. 1.

In the men's poll, Houston and Kansas stayed on top after a record weekend of top-25 losses, with 11 teams losing. UCLA, riding a 13-game winning streak, climbed two spots to No. 5.

SOUTHLAND

MEN

at UC Riverside 83, Cal Poly 78, OT: Flynn Cameron had 25 points and Jamal Hartwell II added 23 points to help the Highlanders (13-6, 6-1 Big West) hold off the Mustangs for their fourth win in a row. Trevon Taylor had a team-leading 21 points for Cal Poly (7-11, 1-5), which has lost five in a row.

UC Santa Barbara 73, at UC Irvine 65: The Gauchos won for the 10th time in their last 11 games thanks to Andre Kelly's team-leading 22 points and 11 rebounds. UC Santa Barbara (14-3, 5-1 Big West) shot 56% from the field and ended the Anteaters' five-game winning streak.

at Hawaii 58, Cal State Northridge 51: Dionte Bostick had 21 points and five rebounds but the Matadors (3-14, 0-6 Big West) were held to 31% shooting from the field and were dealt their seventh consecutive loss.

at Cal State Fullerton 76, Cal State Bakersfield 46: Latrell Wrightsell Jr. scored 18 points to lead five Titans in double figures as Cal State Fullerton (10-9, 4-3 Big West) handed the Roadrunners their third loss in the last four games. The Titans blew it open in the second half, outscoring Cal State Bakersfield (6-12, 2-5) by 22 points.

SPORTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 ∷ LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

††

NFL PLAYOFFS

+++++++ AFC DIVISIONAL ROUND+++++++

No. 4 JACKSONVILLE at No. 1 KANSAS CITY
Saturday, 1:30 p.m., Ch. 4

No. 3 CINCINNATI at No. 2 BUFFALO
Sunday, noon, Ch. 2

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Jan. 29
NFC: Noon (Ch. 11)
AFC: 3:30 p.m. (Ch. 2)

SUPER BOWL LVII
Feb. 12 at Glendale, Ariz.
All times PST

+++++++ NFC DIVISIONAL ROUND++++++++

No. 6 N.Y. GIANTS at No. 1 PHILADELPHIA
Saturday, 5:15 p.m., Ch. 11

No. 5 DALLAS at No. 2 SAN FRANCISCO
Sunday, 3:30 p.m., Ch. 11

PETER JONELEIT Associated Press

QUARTERBACK Dak Prescott, diving over Buccaneers cornerback Sean Murphy-Bunting, helped the Cowboys soar in a 31-14 victory.

BIG LEAPS OF FAITH

Cowboys advance despite Maher's misses and perhaps send Brady into retirement

SAM FARMER
ON THE NFL

The Dallas Cowboys are moving on in the NFL playoffs.

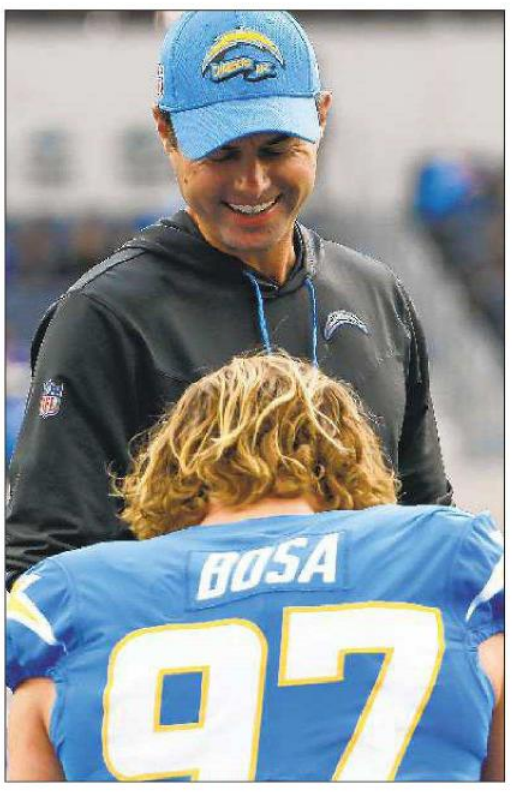
It remains to be seen whether they'll bring their kicker with them.

The Cowboys won at Tampa Bay on Monday night, but Dallas' Brett Maher had a nightmare of a game, missing four consecutive extra points in the 31-14 victory. Dallas is one of three NFC East teams still alive in the playoffs, joining the Philadelphia Eagles and the New York Giants.

Before Maher's meltdown, no kicker had missed three PATs in a postseason game.

Whereas Maher's future with the Cowboys is uncertain, so is the playing future of Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady. The 45-year-old superstar, who has seven Super Bowl rings, retired after the 2021 season but returned 40 days later. It would not be a surprise if Monday night's game were the last of his career.

The Cowboys advance to the divisional round, where they will play at San Francisco. Dallas has not won a divisional game since the 1995 season, which ended [See **Farmer,** B8]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

BRANDON STALEY had a roller-coaster season, guiding the Chargers to the playoffs before their meltdown versus the Jaguars.

Staley's status is not the only issue facing Chargers

BY JEFF MILLER

Day 2 of the Chargers' offseason brought nothing definitive on the status of coach Brandon Staley, further strengthening the notion he will be retained.

Staley and, to a much lesser extent, general manager Tom Telesco faced scrutiny throughout much of the fall before the Chargers rallied to secure the AFC's top wild-card spot.

But a regular-season finale that included questionable decisions by the organization regarding playing time and then a 27-point meltdown Saturday in Jacksonville rekindled the outside chatter.

There also have been mounting questions about the future of offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi, who finished his second season with the team.

In 2021, the Chargers were the AFC's No. 1 passing offense and a top-five unit in points and total yards in the league.

After a stellar rookie year, quarterback Justin Herbert continued to [See **Chargers,** B8]

JAMES SLAMS BRAKES ON SKID

Superstar makes his presence felt with 48-point game in win over the Rockets.

LAKERS 140
HOUSTON 132

BY BRODERICK TURNER

The last two games for the Lakers were crushing.

They were left in a state of despair both times. They were close games the Lakers were unable to win. The Lakers still could feel the sting of both defeats.

But the beauty of the NBA is there is another day and another game, and that's what the Lakers had to look forward to Monday night when they faced the Houston Rockets at Crypto.com Arena.

This time, LeBron James refused to let the Lakers lose a game that was still too close for comfort against the young, energetic and talented Rockets, both teams playing the second of back-to-back games.

It took James producing a season-high 48 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Lakers to pull out a 140-132 win over the Rockets.

James scored 40 points or more for the third time this season, the 72nd time of his illustrious 20-year career during the regular season, and the 100th time of his career including playoffs.

"I could have very easily took tonight off, but I don't feel like the momentum of our ballclub could use me taking a night off tonight," said James, who has been dealing with a sore ankle. "I don't feel like I wanted to sit on that loss with Philly last night. I kind of wanted to get that out of my taste buds and see if we win a ballgame tonight."

James scored 20 points in the fourth, including four free throws in the final 40 seconds to seal the game.

He was 16 for 26 from the field, five for 10 from three-point range and 11 for 12 from the free-throw line.

"I think it's historic, man, on a lot of different levels," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said about the play of James. "For him to be at this point in his career and still able to produce at the level in which he's producing, I just think [See **Lakers,** B7]

SET FOR THE FLETCH RUN

Brothers David and Dominic Fletcher may play for Italy in WBC

BY SARAH VALENZUELA

David and Dominic Fletcher spent some time this offseason visiting the place where their mother grew up for the first time.

As prospective players for Team Italy in the upcoming World Baseball Classic, the brothers from Cypress went on a tour of the country with some of their teammates. The purpose of the tour was to bring more awareness and excitement about the sport to a country in which it is not popular.

The group made a surprise stop in Florence just for the Fletcher brothers, allowing them to meet and have dinner with cousins from Fernanda Fletcher's side of the family.

"Our mom taught us Italian when we were young," Dominic said. "We kind of grew up speaking Italian and then over the years lost little bits and pieces. We still speak decent Italian. It was good enough to be able to have a decent conversation with our family."

Italy's WBC team is managed by Hall of Famer Mike Piazza, who has long been an ambassador for the sport in the country. Piazza, who moved to Italy with his family after he retired from the major leagues, played for [See **Fletchers,** B6]

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

ANGELS INFIELDER David Fletcher, above, last played on the same team with younger brother Dominic at Cypress High in 2013.

Witnessing this dazzling son rise at Sierra Canyon

James, whose father stars for Lakers, has a knack for highlights but seeks consistency.

BY LUCA EVANS

Noah Williams mimed the dunk a few days later, cycling an invisible ball between his legs, eyes still wide.

"He's not from here," the Chatsworth Sierra Canyon junior said of senior teammate Bronny James, shaking his head. "He's something different."

James had flipped a switch in the third quarter of a win over West Hills Chaminade on Jan. 6, capping a 12-point stretch in the span of three minutes with a roof-rocking tomahawk jam. So when he forced a fourth-quarter steal and visibly down-shifted into sport mode, a crowded Sierra Canyon gym held its breath.

A couple of steps inside the free-throw line, James elevated, brought the ball between his legs and slammed it. Belief suspended. His teammates spilled onto the court in jubilation, Williams clasping his hands over his mouth, coach Andre Chevalier gesturing frantically at a trainer to get back to the sideline like a parent scolding a child.

"Transcendent. ... There was a couple of minutes where there was everybody else on the court," assistant coach Chris Howe said, "and there was Bronny James."

It was a *moment*. James' career at Sierra Canyon has been defined by them, by the viral moments that sew together a brilliant tapestry of his journey. Squint and fans will see what they're looking for: a basketball prince and [See **James,** B6]

Los Angeles Times

E

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

NINTENDO WORLD at Universal Studios places guests inside a larger-than-life re-creation of the Mushroom Kingdom from the "Super Mario Bros." video games.

AN APPRECIATION

'Born a princess,' died an artist

Lisa Marie Presley's collaborators praise the singer's integrity

MIKAEL WOOD
MUSIC CRITIC

Andrew Slater remembers explaining to Lisa Marie Presley how this whole thing was going to work.

Twenty years ago, the veteran manager and record producer — then also the president of Presley's storied label, Capitol Records — had cut the singer's debut single with her in the studio, and now he was prepping her for what was to come.

"I said, 'This song is a good entry point for what you're doing on your album, so what we'll do is we'll put a promotional tour together because people will want to talk to you about the song,' " Slater recalled of "Lights Out," a glossy but muscular pop-rock tune in which the singer addresses her background as the only child of Elvis and Priscilla Presley. " 'We'll go to radio stations in a couple cities and get up early and do morning shows.' And she goes, 'I just have one question: Can I bring my plane? ' " Slater laughed. "I said, 'As long as we don't park it at the radio station, I think we're good.' "

A rookie artist with all the comforts — and some of the burdens — of success: That was Lisa Marie Presley's strange position as she embarked on a music career in her mid-30s after decades of tabloid notoriety brought on

[See **Presley,** E6]

NEXT-LEVEL IMMERSION

Jump into the Mushroom Kingdom at Super Nintendo World

TODD MARTENS GAME CRITIC

Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios Hollywood brings a lot of firsts to the theme park industry. It's the first major land in North America themed entirely around a video game property and it contains the first serious implementation of augmented reality in an attraction. It's also visually inviting, a colorful world full of movement, games, character interactions, animation and a plenty of silliness.

Expect the most interactive theme park land ever created, one with a mission that the future of entertainment will involve a whole lot of play. The goal is to place guests inside the Mushroom Kingdom of "Super Mario Bros.," to make them feel as if they're tourists inside a game rather than visiting a giant place filled with games. In turn, the land looks like an obstacle course, a mashup of various Nintendo landscapes — a desert to the right, blue-tinged snowcaps up ahead and a foreboding, villainous castle as its centerpiece.

The land is a win for Universal Studios Hollywood, doing for Nintendo what the Wizarding World of Harry Potter did for the fantasy franchise: build an all-encompassing world with detail designed to make guests hang out longer rather than come for a ride and bolt.

Super Nintendo World won't officially open until Feb. 17, but the land is in technical rehearsals now

[See **Nintendo,** E2]

A big fight scene ahead

Directors Guild warns this will be a tough year for labor talks as studios make cuts.

BY ANOUSHA SAKOUI

Throughout its 87-year history, the Directors Guild of America has staged a strike only once — a walkout in 1987 that lasted 5 minutes (or 12 minutes by some accounts).

In contrast to the Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA, the DGA has traditionally avoided showdowns with the studios, bargained early and remained tight-lipped about its goals.

But this year may be different.

In a recent message to 19,000 members, DGA leaders signaled that negotiations would be tough and that the union is in no rush to begin negotiating a new contract to replace one that expires June 3. They also indicated that they may let the Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA go first, a notable departure from practice in recent years in which the DGA has preferred to take the lead and establish a bargaining template for other unions, whose contracts also expire in June.

Such a decision could give more bargaining leverage to the more strident WGA — which many believed is poised to strike for the first time since the 100-day walkout in 2007-08 — and underscores the level of discontent between Hollywood unions and their employers.

"This year promises to be an extremely challenging negotiating environment — one of the most difficult and complex we have faced in many years — with studios continuing to consolidate and become increasingly vertically integrated, and with extraordinary economic headwinds facing our industry and our nation," said DGA negotiations committee chairman Jon Avnet and National Executive Director Russell Hollander in a joint statement Monday.

So what's behind the

[See **Labor,** E3]

GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA, 1927 – 2023

Bellissima face of la dolce vita

The actor with dual careers in Europe and Hollywood embodied sultry glamour.

BY STEVE MARBLE

There she is, waving from the backseat of a convertible on the eve of the Cannes Film Festival. And here she is again, stepping to the tarmac from a jet in Paris, her scarf billowing perfectly in the evening breeze. And again, cloaked in emerald — dress and rings, both — in her villa outside Rome.

An actor, yes, but somehow Gina Lollobrigida was always more than just that.

As Italy was pulling itself from the rubble of World War II and the grinding oppression of fascism, Lollobrigida emerged as the face of *la dolce vita*, a siren beckoning Romans to once again indulge, celebrate and embrace.

"She represented some-

[See **Lollobrigida,** E6]

Associated Press

ALL EYES ON HER
Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida stands in her open car as she signs autographs to fans in front of her hotel during the 1961 Cannes Film Festival.

Chilling remix of 'Titanium'
How "M3GAN" took a dance pop hit and made it into a creepy lullaby. **E2**

Royally missed opportunity
Prince Harry takes swipes at everything but the monarchy itself in his memoir. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

GEOFFREY SHORT Universal Pictures

THE DOLL M3GAN (voiced by YouTube star Jenna Davis) sings a lullaby-like rendition of 2011's techno-pop smash "Titanium" by electronic DJ David Guetta and Sia in "M3GAN." Violet McGraw, right, plays Cady.

Horror flick toys with a hit

How 'M3GAN' puts a creepy spin on the David Guetta and Sia pop song 'Titanium.'

BY SUZY EXPOSITO

M3GAN — the titular, murderous robotic star of the decade's buzziest horror film — is a villain tailor-made for these modern times.

In the film, devised by writers Akela Cooper and James Wan, a tween-sized robot named M3GAN — an acronym for "Model 3 Generative Android" — is created by a roboticist (played by Allison Williams) to be a companion to her newly orphaned niece, Cady (played by Violet McGraw).

In the movie trailer, M3GAN flaunts her *killer* (sorry) dance moves, which are modeled after everyday TikTok challenges. In the weeks leading up to the film's Jan. 6 release, M3GAN cosplayers executed her strange choreography in some brilliant TikToks (and flash mobs) of their own.

But in theaters across the United States this week, audiences discovered in real time that M3GAN not only danced — she could *sing*. Voiced impeccably by the 18-year-old YouTube star Jenna Davis, the tween doll transforms "Titanium," David Guetta and Sia's 2011 techno-pop hit, into a menacing minute-long lullaby. ("You shoot me down, but I won't fall," she warbles as the camera hones in on her glassy eyes: "I am titanium!") Inside a theater in Glendale, the scene cued incredulous laughter from the audience.

Since then, "Titanium" (M3GAN's Version) has exploded on TikTok, counting more than 4 million plays across the platform. Meanwhile, the original Guetta/Sia track generated 2 million YouTube views in the first three days since the film's release.

The Times spoke with music supervisor Andrea von Foerster (whose credits include the hit TV show "Yellowstone" and the cult classic "(500) Days of Summer") and composer Anthony Willis (whose scores range from the animated fantasy "How to Train Your Dragon: Homecoming" to the rape revenge film "Promising Young Woman") about how they created the twisted musical landscape of "M3GAN."

"M3GAN" is a horror movie about the shadow side of AI technology, but it's also campy, even a little ridiculous. How were you able to marry these energies on the score and soundtrack?

Von Foerster: Horror movies are amazing to work on because they tend to be the most adventurous with music — songs and score. You're usually working with a smaller budget, but that limitation breeds creativity. You dig deeper and look for obscure, lesser known or overlooked tunes. The palette was wide open for this film and we tried a lot of songs. Our director, Gerard Johnstone, has wonderfully eclectic taste so it felt like nothing was off limits.

Willis: I think it's really interesting to see how audiences have lately been drawn to films that are fun but also have something important to say, and rather than weaken those messages, the campiness actually makes them more vivid and memorable. In terms of score, "M3GAN" invited a huge amount of scope. On the one hand, we have an AI doll emulating the innocence of a child (and all the singing and fantasy that comes with it) and on the other, a machine with no physical limits at all, who, try as she might, can't be human. It's a striking contrast and really invited a big polarity in style and needs, from the intimacy of a vibraphone, to industrial synths and full orchestra. M3GAN is so larger than life that she is able to bind it all together.

Theatergoers, myself included, were shrieking with laughter when M3GAN starts crooning Guetta and Sia's "Titanium" to her BFF Cady. What made you choose this song for this scene?

Von Foerster: Gerard wrote this into the script before I was hired. I can only take credit for working with the publishers to clear the song for our limited budget.

Willis: Serious kudos to Andrea and everyone involved for clearing this amazing hit for us to work with — I've heard from many fans that it's their favorite moment in the film, and a genius choice by Gerard. He asked if I could cover it as a creepy bedtime lullaby, but still allow it to get a bit emotional and diva-ish as M3GAN gets into it. So I did an arrangement that started out stark, but grows to be soothing and warm with the chords rising and thickening, before transitioning back into eerie underscore. We then recorded the vocal with Jenna who nailed it, later adding live orchestra.

Another creepy-crawly music moment is when M3GAN sings an original song, written by Willis and Johnstone, called "Tell Me Your Dreams."

Willis: This was my very first assignment as soon as I joined the project — I wrote the tune, Gerard added lyrics, and it was filmed with the animatronic M3GAN to capture her vocal moments pretty much the next day. I made the melody quite simple and a little robotic, imagining it as something an AI doll could hypothetically compose. Once Gerard was in the edit, we recorded the vocal with Jenna [Davis] who did it brilliantly, and I was about to start turning it into a full mashup with different layers, the way it was described in the script, and Gerard said, "If we make it a Disney-ish parody, it will have more of an impact." And that's when I arranged it for classical orchestra and backing vocals, really playing on that more traditional nostalgia. We both loved the lullaby feel of James Horner's "Somewhere Out There" from "The American Tale," so I definitely paid homage to that tone in the arrangement.

Von Foerster: We knew we wanted a Burt Bacharach/Randy Newman/Stevie Wonder vibe, but we couldn't afford any of their songs.

You worked with a voice actor, Jenna Davis, on these songs. What was it like recording these songs with her? How do you think she got the creepiness right?

Willis: I was blown away by Jenna's work in the studio — she captured the balance of childish playfulness and eeriness in her characterization of M3GAN and carried that same tone into her singing on "Tell Me Your Dreams" and "Titanium." We experimented to find that sweet spot.

Talk about the music you created for the toy commercials featured in the film. You really nailed the zany element of TV infomercials, but in an uncomfortable, uncanny Valley way.

Von Foerster: The Purrpetual Petz and Furzeez ads are hysterical. Gerard had references to American and Japanese toy ads. The kind you'd see during Saturday morning cartoons. He wrote lyrics that are hilariously dark and direct but wanted the music to be cheerful and upbeat. I contacted Devin Norris at Yellotone Music to create the music, and his team nailed it on the first pass.

The soundtrack even gets a little funky — you play "Walk the Night," a 1979 track by the Skatt Bros. when M3GAN begins her all-out killing spree.

Von Foerster: The song deserves to be a staple on all future Halloween playlists. Gerard heard the song when he was working on this scene and he asked me to track it down in 2021. It was *so* hard to be patient waiting for this scene to finally be unleashed. The propulsive beat, driving bass line, screeches, ominous laughter, crazy deep voice on the verses, and gang vocals on the chorus all feel like something that should have been in "The Warriors." It's totally unhinged so it fit our film perfectly. We need more dark disco in our lives.

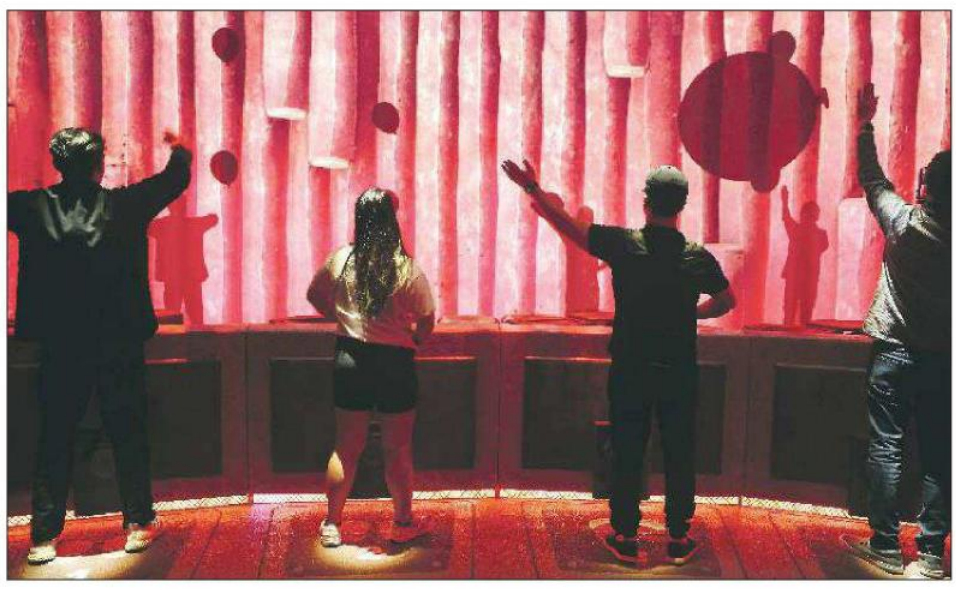
Nintendo World powers up

[**Nintendo,** from E1]
and will also be welcoming annual passholders before its grand opening gala next month. Be forewarned, there's no guarantee the land will be up and running — or always fully operational — until Feb. 17. Still, The Times visited Super Nintendo World on its first day of technical rehearsals and we have a few takeaways for what to expect when walking through one of the trademark warp pipes of "Super Mario Bros." and into the land.

THE LAND TAKES PLAY SERIOUSLY

Play, as Super Nintendo World understands it, is not frivolous. Play, at its heart, is a communication tool, a way to bring together families, friends, partners and even strangers. When we enter into a game — especially a game in a real-life physical space — we step into a place with invisible boundaries and rules that serve not to gatekeep, but to allow us to act outside of our normal, everyday selves. By taking the viewpoint that we are entering a game rather than playing a game, Super Nintendo World invites us to constantly let our guard down and make blissful fools of ourselves in a room full of would-be friends.

The land has four key games and one large so-called boss battle, a group game that requires light body movement and asks us to imagine ourselves in "Super Mario Bros." Some of the games are simple — spin a large wheel to try to make a Goomba, one of the mushroom-looking enemies from the "Mario" games, stumble. Another is a group activity that invites us to work together to flip bricks into a singular color. Elsewhere, we punch a block and try to knock down a turtle-like Koopa. None are particularly difficult, but they all invite us to get active.



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

VISITORS preview an attraction at the soon-to-open Super Nintendo World.

Guests who opt in for the land's Power-Up Band — a $40 wristband that interacts with the Universal app and allows guests to collect virtual coins and track their progress — will be allowed to partake in the final boss battle, a bout with Bowser Jr., one of Mario and Luigi's key nemeses. Here, expect to get a slight workout, as shadows of ourselves are superimposed on a wall as the game tracks our full body movement, like a next-generation Microsoft Kinect. We can jump to hit imaginary blocks, fling our arms to throw bombs and, if we're lucky, send out the occasional virtual fireball. It's a bit wacky, lovingly messy and lasts a solid few minutes, allowing time for a large group to play along, be silly and interact with one another via a larger-than-life game.

MARIO KART RIDE ON TRACK TO BE A SMASH

After three times on Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge, the land's showcase attraction and sole ride, I'm still discovering its intricacies. First, don't expect a thrill ride. This is a racing ride that moves at a relatively modest pace, putting the emphasis on gameplay, set pieces, animation and pure theme-park weirdness. Each ride I was on was vastly different, as sometimes the vehicle would shake or quiver when hit with a cartoonish lightning bolt, and other times Bowser, the dragon-meets-turtle villain of the Mario world, would leave us reeling. Still other times we would leave Bowser in the dust.

The attraction is part old-school theme park dark ride — we're in a cavernous room and follow a track — and part of a showcase for modern augmented-reality technology. Before riding, we're given headbands, which we affixed to a visor that's permanently attached to our ride vehicle. Viewing the world through the visor leads us into a universe of imaginative chaos. Guests, four to a kart, are placed on Team Mario. Our steering wheel has buttons that allow us to throw shells, which we'll accrue throughout the ride. We aim the shells at Bowser and his minions, but here's the inventive twist: We aim with our heads and throw where we're looking.

Yes, there's a bit of a learning curve, but consider it a ride fans will want to visit multiple times to try to best their prior score. There's quite a bit to see — at times we're underwater and shooting at electrical jellyfish, and moments later we're careening and spinning on the dazzling Rainbow Road, one of the more famous "Mario Kart" courses. We'll catch glimpses of Bowser's pirate-like airship, skeletal creatures that spring to life and try to take it all in while we're taunted by Bowser and his gang.

Video-game-inspired rides are all the rage in the theme park space these days — see Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run at the Disneyland Resort — and Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge works because it understands the appeal of the "Mario Kart" games. It's not always about winning or losing in "Mario Kart," as the draw of the game is often its anything-can-happen zaniness. This gives us the illusion of living it.

THE WORLD IS FULLY ANIMATED

One of my favorite moments in my time today at Super Nintendo World was when I walked up to the land's second story to look out of telescopes that are also outfitted with augmented reality technology. This allows us to view the land as a sort of living video game, as we'll see the cannon-fired Bullet Bills soar about the heads of guests. But with or without the augmented reality, I just wanted to stop and take it all in. There was movement everywhere — gold coins spun, the turtle-like Koopas strutted and a Pokey, a centipede-like creature, wavered in the So-Cal sun.

But more than that, there's a bounty of original animation found throughout the land. It's worth a visit to the Italian-leaning Toadstool Cafe — clever concoctions like Mount Beanpole cake are designed like a Mario level — to not only eat but to look out the digital windows. Here, we can see how the Toad species lives, whether that's the orderly fashion in which they manage a kitchen or the panic when Bowser's airship comes into view. This is all original animation created for the land, as are the opening scenes when we enter the space through the castle of Princess Peach. The latter give us the underlying narrative of the land, which is that a golden mushroom was stolen by Bowser Jr. and we are charged with getting it back.

And while there are plenty of blocks to pound throughout the land, which will garner virtual gold coins for those with Power-Up Bands, there are also hidden panels that we can tap that will come alive with video-game-inspired hieroglyphics. Some of my favorite animation was seen in the lead-up to the battle with Bowser Jr., as the drawings here captured a sketchy, vintage feel. Taken as a whole, the relatively compact Super Nintendo World, a version of which opened in 2021 in Japan, is packed with things to see, whether we want to sit back and watch or take the land's invitation to play.

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
CORSAGE 1:00 4:00 7:00
LIVING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:30
NO BEARS 1:30 4:30 7:20

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
SAINT OMER PG-13 1:20 4:10 7:15
ALCARRÀS 4:15 PM
TURN EVERY PAGE - THE ADVENTURES OF ROBERT CARO AND ROBERT GOTTLIEB PG 1:30 7:10
BROKER R 1:05 4:00 7:00
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:10 6:40
EO 4:30 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 1:00 7:00
TÁR R 1:00 4:10 7:20
ON SACRED GROUND 4:20 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
KITCHEN BRIGADE 4:30 PM
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
BROKER R 1:00 4:00 7:00
CORSAGE 1:20 7:20
LIVING PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:30
EMPIRE OF LIGHT R 4:15 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:10 6:55

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:10 4:15 7:20
PLANE R 1:20 4:10 7:00
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:10
BABYLON R 3:35 PM
WHITNEY HOUSTON: I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY PG-13 7:00 PM
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:00 4:20 7:30
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13 1:20 6:30
THE WHALE R 4:00 7:20
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 PM

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
SKINAMARINK 4:30 PM
BROKER R *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;* 1:00 7:10
CORSAGE 1:15 7:20
LIVING PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:30
ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED 4:10 PM
EO *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;* 1:20 7:30
DECISION TO LEAVE *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;* 1:00 7:00
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 4:00 PM
THE TOMORROW JOB 4:20 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
PLANE R 1:10 4:00 7:00
SAINT OMER PG-13 1:10 7:30
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:20
BROKER R 1:00 4:10 7:10
BABYLON R 1:30 PM
CORSAGE 4:20 PM
THE WHALE R 1:20 4:20 7:30
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:05

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
SAINT OMER PG-13 1:10 7:00
BROKER R 1:00 4:05 7:10
CORSAGE 4:10 PM
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE WHALE R 1:20 4:20 7:20

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COMMENTARY

‘Spare’ is merciless, but short of enough

In his memoir, Prince Harry attacks all but the source of his woes: the monarchy itself.

By Meredith Blake

In his memoir, “Spare,” Prince Harry spills more British tea than a certain band of revolutionaries did 250 years ago — with results that may be just as upsetting to the current monarch as the Boston Tea Party was to George III.

Many wondered if the tell-all, published last week, would contain enough new revelations to sustain public interest in the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, whose six-part docuseries “Harry & Meghan” premiered just last month on Netflix. The answer, so far, is a resounding yes: “Spare” is breaking sales records and has inspired more breathless headlines than virtually any other book in recent memory.

When it comes to juicy anecdotes, “Spare” is anything but: No tidbit is too salacious, too trifling or too controversial to make the cut. The erstwhile prince writes about losing his virginity to an older woman in a field behind a pub, tripping on mushrooms in Courteney Cox’s bathroom and sexy rendezvous with his now-wife, the former Meghan Markle, early in their courtship. He also offers more sobering details, like the exact number of people he killed while serving in Afghanistan (25) and the belief he clung to for many years that his mother, Princess Diana, did not die in a Paris car crash but had actually disappeared.

And he is unflinching when it comes to his family, portraying the Windsors as a cold, dysfunctional and ruthless clan in which hugs are beyond the pale but leaking stories to the Sun about your own kin is standard practice. In Harry’s telling, Charles is detached and relentlessly self-serving, William dull and peevish and Camilla a conniving stepmother straight out of Disney-villain central casting.

For all his anguished soul-bearing and scandalous confessing, though, Harry can’t bring himself to identify, much less condemn, the real source of his woes: the monarchy itself. As I eagerly gobbled up every gossipy morsel about wedding seating Harry was willing to share, I kept waiting for him to *go there* and critique the institution that fostered such wild entitlement and bitter resentment in the first place.

Instead, he spends nearly 400 pages building a de facto case against the very concept of a hereditary sovereign — surely no one would *choose* to have an emotionally stunted dilettante like Charles in charge if they could — but ultimately dodges the very pertinent questions he raises about the aristocratic system he once epitomized.

For Harry, frostbitten todgers are fair game, but the “M” word is apparently the last real taboo.

“No one wants to hear a prince argue for the existence of a monarchy, any more than they want to hear a prince argue against it,” he writes in the closing pages of “Spare.” “My emotions are complicated on this subject, naturally, but my bottom-line position isn’t. I’ll forever support my Queen, my Commander in Chief, my Granny. Even after she’s gone. My problem has never been with the monarchy, or the concept of monarchy. It’s been with the press and the sick relationship that’s evolved between it and the Palace.”

The claim that Harry — who called his book “Spare,” after all — has no problem with the concept of a hereditary monarchy, one that almost inevitably pit him against his older brother and his father against them both, seems disingenuous.

He devotes many of the memoir’s pages to detailing the ways, overt and subtle, he was made to feel disposable and inferior from the moment of his birth, for no reason other than William got there first. Early on, Harry recalls how their bedroom at Balmoral was divided into two halves — his brother’s larger and more luxuriously appointed. Later, in adulthood, this tension curdles in unexpected ways. William, allegedly resentful that he didn’t get to pick what he wore on his own wedding day, tries to bully Harry into shaving his beard. Charles does not come off any better, looking the other way as his wife, Camilla, allegedly feeds stories to the tabloids about her stepsons in exchange for favorable coverage and constantly putting his personal interests ahead of theirs because, well, he can.

Chris Jackson Getty Images

QUEEN ELIZABETH II, Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, and Prince Harry in 2018.

The pettiness described in “Spare” is staggering, with inane disputes over lip gloss rising to near-constitutional crises. And British republicans, sensing a moment of opportunity to revive their campaign against the monarchy after the death of Queen Elizabeth II, have glommed onto the ugly family drama.

“This row is destroying the monarchy and any sense of mystery or mythology that has sustained it in the past. We can now see very ordinary, unimpressive people who are prone to quick tempers, fits of violence and petty jealousies,” said Graham Smith, chief executive of the anti-monarchist group Republic, in a recent press release. “Harry has also highlighted the cruelty of an institution that raises children according to a rigid pecking order, telling the younger ones they must always defer to the rights and rank of their siblings. This is no way to raise a family, it is no way to govern a country.”

Indeed, it doesn’t take a child psychologist to know that Harry grew up in an unhealthy environment, deprived of physical affection while being made to perform for the cameras. “No matter how much you might love someone, you could never cross the chasm between, say, monarch and child. Or heir and spare. Physically but also emotionally,” he writes. “The older generation maintained a nearly zero-tolerance prohibition on physical contact. No hugs, no kisses, no pats.” This, apparently, included moments of intense tragedy, like Diana’s death. (Harry got a hand on the knee from his father.) When William embraced Harry upon his return home after a scary incident on the front lines in Afghanistan, it amounted to “a flamboyant, unprecedented display of physical affection.”

Whether he’s being willfully naive or is simply in denial, Harry also seems to believe there is a meaningful distinction between the British press and the institution of the monarchy. Yet the two organisms share a deeply symbiotic relationship, and function as interdependent parts of a system that preserves wealth and power for a scant few. Saying “my problem is not with the monarchy, it’s with the press” is like saying “my problem is not with sharks, it’s with their teeth.”

And, on some level, Harry knows the institution is difficult to defend in a democratic, post-colonial era. As James Holt, a former palace spokesperson who now runs the Archewell Foundation, says in the first episode of “Harry & Meghan”: “When you actually put [the monarchy] under pressure and you say that there is a family anointed by God, by blood, to rule over this country and other countries around the world, it’s a difficult conversation to have. And so in order for the institution to survive, it has to modernize, but it also has to have mass popular support.”

That support, in turn, depends on a constant stream of publicity — most of it the good kind, celebrating the lavish weddings, jubilees and funerals but also the countless dutiful ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Put another way: The royals need the press to cover all their good deeds, otherwise we might start asking where those tiaras came from.

And this dependence on publicity breeds paranoia and resentment within the family. Harry recalls a particularly tense Christmas at Sandringham, marred by bitterness over the Court Circular — the annual record of the royal family’s official engagements, which inspired the press to draw conclusions each year about who was a lazy mooch and who was a workhorse. “Maybe the stress around all this stemmed from the overarching stress about the monarchy itself,” Harry writes. “The family was feeling the tremors of global change, hearing the cries of critics who said the monarchy was outdated.”

Harry may be reluctant to condemn the institution more forcefully because of how fully he seems to have internalized the imperialist mindset. He devotes nearly a third of “Spare” to his military service in Iraq and Afghanistan, without thoroughly contemplating the role of the British Empire in their histories. And some of the more cringeworthy passages in “Spare” pertain to his experiences in Africa, a continent he seems genuinely to love but writes about using naive cliches: “In Africa all distance dissolved. All creatures mingled freely.” He even admits to considering getting a tattoo of Botswana on his foot during a drunken trip to Las Vegas. Instead, he winds up back in the tabloids after losing a round of strip poker.

Since they walked away from royal life three years ago, Harry and Meghan have assiduously rebranded themselves as progressive-ish celebrity philanthropists and multimedia entrepreneurs. Meghan’s Spotify podcast “Archetypes” aims to dismantle “the labels that try to hold women back,” while the docuseries “Live to Lead,” their second project at Netflix, earnestly profiles left-leaning icons like Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

They earned their liberal cred, such as it is, by distancing themselves from an archaic institution and calling out unfair treatment Meghan received based on her race, class and gender. Yet the Sussexes have yet to renounce their royal titles. In an otherwise friendly interview for “60 Minutes,” Anderson Cooper pointedly asked why they hadn’t taken this final step. The (still) Duke of Sussex responded with a shrug: “And what difference would that make?”

The answer is: a big one.

Chris Pizzello Invision; Associated Press

THE DIRECTORS GUILD expects tough contract negotiations as studios face economic headwinds.

Guild says to expect hard fight

[**Labor,** from E1]
growing unrest?

In their message, the leaders addressed sweeping changes in the industry that have occurred during the pandemic and amid a surge in streaming, which has created new job opportunities but also deepened anxieties about how directors, writers and actors are compensated across multiple new platforms as fewer people watch movies on the big screen.

“This year’s negotiations are about more than bargaining a strong contract for the next three years — they’re about setting the course for the future of our industry and ensuring the sustainability of hundreds of thousands of good, union jobs,” Avnet and Hollander added, echoing a similar message they delivered in November.

The DGA’s top goals include fighting for higher wages, which have been eroded by inflation; securing more funding for its health and pension plans, which have been buffeted by steep stock market losses; and a better deal on streaming residuals — the fees directors and others fetch after the initial airings of shows.

With each of the studios now owning their own streaming services, one of the challenges for the DGA members, as well as other creators in Hollywood, is a lack of transparency over how residuals are calculated.

Historically, studios would have to pay members every time their show or film was screened, now it is harder for creators to know how many times their content has been viewed and the size of the audience.

Adding to friction is the shortening of TV seasons and the fact that residuals payments are often in the form of lump sums, rather than a stream of income that can support creators throughout their careers.

Whether the DGA and other unions can deliver on promises of better pay and working conditions remains to be seen.

Major media companies that own the studios are facing their own pressures. They have been slashing jobs amid fears of a recession, lackluster box office returns and questions about the viability of the streaming business as subscriptions have slowed.

“It’s going to be hard and they want to manage expectations because there are economic headwinds right now about consolidation within our industry and that we are almost in a recession,” said Dimitry Krol, senior counsel at law firm Loeb & Loeb.

Steve Ross, a professor of history at USC, also predicts a tough fight.

“I have a sense that studios and TV entities are going to dig in,” Ross said. “They saw a big spike in revenue during COVID, with everybody turning to streaming and now we know that streaming service subscriptions have fallen off. So they are going to look for ways to keep profits high.”

A representative for the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents the major studios, declined to comment.

To be sure, the industry was on edge that 2020 would be the year that Hollywood would see its first strike since 2007. But the pandemic removed any leverage unions had to walk out.

And some industry veterans say its too early to predict whether a strike will occur this year.

The DGA has not yet set any dates for negotiations for studios. And the WGA has also told its members that reports it would strike are premature, according to a post on its website.

There has been friction in the past between the unions, with WGA leaders rejecting the idea that they must follow any bargaining pattern established by another guild — or negotiate early.

The WGA prefers to wait until closer to the expiration of its contract to agree to any deal. “Deadlines make deals,” said one WGA source who was not authorized to speak publicly.

The writers wanted all three of the unions to team up and negotiate with the studios jointly, as the studios do, but this has not been possible, the person said.

Absent that, the WGA would prefer to have the other unions hold off bargaining so that it can negotiate first.

The writers aren’t likely to begin talks with the studios until March, the source said.

“We will only begin bargaining when we believe we have the most leverage to win the best possible deal for DGA Directors and their teams,” Avnet and Hollander said in their statement to members.

Some observers think the other unions might this year let the WGA lead the negotiations, as they did in 2007.

“In the past that WGA has been the most radical of the three and they’ve been the most likely to go on strike,” Ross said. “I think they’re going to fight the battle right up front. I think the DGA wants to see what kind of deal the WGA can forge.”

BOX OFFICE

‘Avatar’ and ‘M3GAN’ don’t take any days off

New movies like ‘Plane’ and ‘House Party’ can’t slow high-flying films.

By Lindsey Bahr

20th Century Studios Associated Press

SAM WORTHINGTON in “Avatar: The Way of Water,” box-office champ for five weekends running.

New movies like “Plane” and “House Party” were no match for “Avatar: The Way of Water” and the killer-doll horror “M3GAN” at the box office this weekend. The two holdovers topped the charts again according to studio estimates Monday.

In first place for the fifth weekend in a row was James Cameron’s “Avatar” sequel, which added an estimated $39.3 million through the end of Monday’s Martin Luther King holiday. As of Monday, the film’s domestic total rests at$572 million (the 13th biggest of all time) and its global total is $1.89 billion. “Avatar 2” needs to pass $1.92 billion to trump “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” currently the sixth highest-grossing film of all time globally.

“There were such huge expectations and a lot of naysayers that opening weekend,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. “But ‘Avatar,’ for a James Cameron movie, is moving at lightning speed up the domestic and global box office chart. I think he always knew this would be a $2 billion movie.”

Second place went to Universal and Blumhouse’s “M3GAN,” which in its second weekend in theaters added $17.9 million through Sunday and an estimated $21.7 million including Monday. The modestly budgeted thriller that cost a reported $12 million to produce has made $60.2 million in North America.

Horror movies typically have steep second weekend drop-offs in ticket sales, but “M3GAN” fell only 41%. Dergarabedian said that’s almost unheard of for a horror picture and shows “world-class staying power.”

Universal also claimed the third-place spot, with “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish,” which audiences continued to seek out in theaters even though it’s available to rent at home. The family friendly animated film added $19 million in its fourth weekend, bringing its domestic total to $112 million.

“A Man Called Otto,” from Columbia Pictures, expanded to 3,802 theaters this weekend, adding $15 million through Monday, to take fourth place. Directed by Marc Forster, the adaptation of “A Man Called Ove” starring Tom Hanks is proving to be something of a rarity in the theatrical marketplace as an adult-targeted drama that is doing well.

The Gerard Butler action pic “Plane,” a Lionsgate acquisition for release in North America, rounded out the top five with a better-than-expected $12 million in its first four days. “Plane” got better-than-average reviews with 75% positive from critics on Rotten Tomatoes.

Overall, the four-day box office total is going to net out around $128 million, not quite at pre-pandemic levels but still up some 44% from the same weekend last year.

“January is not going to be the slow month we thought. It’s a great combination of films out there that’s not just dominated by ‘Avatar: The Way of Water,’ ” Dergarabedian said. “Theaters need movies and the studios are supplying those.”

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore.

1. “Avatar: The Way of Water,” $40 million.
2. “M3GAN,” $21.7 million.
3. “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish,” $19 million.
4. “A Man Called Otto,” $15 million.
5. “Plane,” $12 million.
6. “House Party,” $4.7 million.
7. “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” $2.8 million.
8. “The Whale,” $1.8 million.
9. “Waltair Veerayya,” $1.7 million.
10. “Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody,” $1.4 million.

Bahr writes for the Associated Press.

COMICS

SUDOKU

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	9	4				5		

Level: Gentle

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	4				
		1			
			3		
	1			6	
6				4	5

Level: Gentle

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1	6	5	3	9	4	7	8	2
8	2	4	6	5	7	1	3	9
4	8	6	5	7	9	3	2	1
5	7	1	2	3	6	9	4	8
2	3	9	4	1	8	5	7	6
7	5	3	9	8	2	6	1	4
6	1	8	7	4	5	2	9	3
9	4	2	1	6	3	8	5	7

6	1	4	3	2	5
3	5	2	1	4	6
1	2	3	5	6	4
4	6	5	2	1	3
2	3	6	4	5	1
5	4	1	6	3	2

1/17/23

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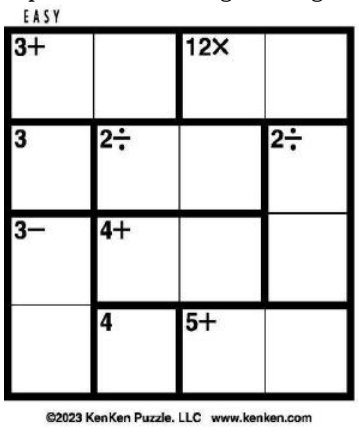
Solutions to Monday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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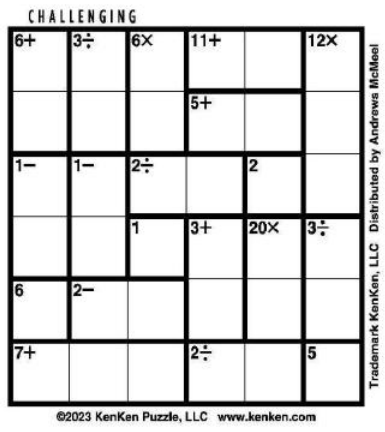
CHALLENGING



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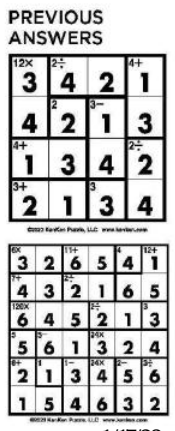
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



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1/17/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): Rigidity is the enemy of grace, which requires relaxed strength. Looseness lets in an element of chaos, but don't be afraid of it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): When your body tells you what to eat or how to move, you're receptive and amenable to suggestions.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You may be fascinated by survival tales and high drama in media, but your "safety first" motto ensures the commotion stays on the screen and out of your life.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): You have a good sense of what's really going on where you are and what direction you want to move next.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You'd rather not talk about what you're going to do because it steals your focus from actually doing it. Today you're all about efficiency.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): They'll tell you there's a right way to do the job, but what they really mean is that there's an *accepted* way. If what you're doing works, do it your way.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): There's a treat coming your way, and it may surprise you in spite of the fact that you set it up yourself long ago.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Everything has consequences. You see the potential in each move and play to what might happen several moves ahead.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Accept all well-intended kindness, but only act on the advice of those who have been where you are and succeeded.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your curious mind prevents you from becoming occupied with the mundane today. The next 48 hours feature friends, laughter and the advancement of a relationship with potential.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You've made a request, a point or an offer. Waiting for a response can be agonizing if you focus too much on it. Go about your business.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You're compassionate, empathetic and accommodating, but you're no pushover. Be firm. Enforce your boundaries.

Today's birthday (Jan. 17): You'll lead, inspire and fund successful efforts this year, a source of pride and lifestyle improvement. The wins of your team are your wins and vice versa. More highlights: comedy so good you'll laugh until you cry, a well-deserved raise and the slow burn of a new interest that turns into a gripping passion. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 10, 3, 13 and 17.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Rebecca Goldstein

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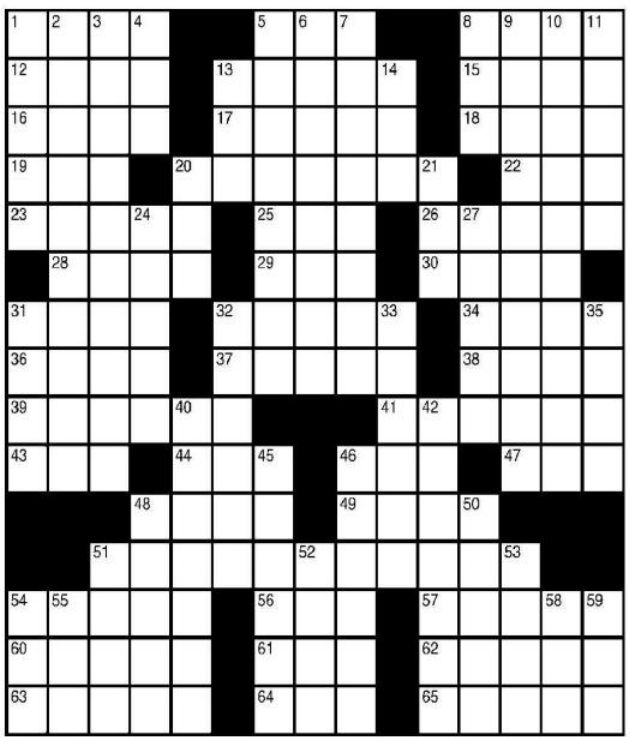

ACROSS

1 Some cast-iron cookware
5 Letters on a foundation?
8 Singer Redding
12 Reebok rival
13 Husband-to-be
15 "That hurt!"
16 Oval Office override
17 Trivial
18 On the house
19 Doc with an otoscope
20 Component of some paint and nails
22 "More info soon"
23 Severe
25 Had a bite
26 Angels' auras
28 With crisp resolution
29 Currency with loonies and toonies, briefly
30 Kingston with a recurring role on "Doctor Who"
31 Textspeak qualifier
32 Leveling strips
34 "You only live __"
36 Nourish
37 Prefix meaning "primitive"
38 Recover
39 Causing goose bumps, maybe
41 Clobbers
43 French couture monogram
44 Green prefix
46 Noodle soup garnished with basil and lime
47 Hawaii's Mauna __
48 Revelatory cries
49 Overnight __: breakfast dish
51 Option on In-N-Out Burger's not-so-secret menu, or the fashion sense that includes the answers to the starred clues?
54 Arrange in a row
56 Obtained
57 "Yer __ here!"
60 Spanish toast
61 Prefix with Pen
62 Unit of salt or sand
63 Group of friends
64 Place that may be kept quiet?
65 Suitably

DOWN

1 Surfer's need
2 Kitchen counters?
3 *Short stiletto
4 "Saint," in Portuguese place names
5 Condiment also known as "rooster sauce"
6 *Updo in a scrunchie, maybe
7 "I had no idea!"
8 "That hurt!"
9 *Shirt with a snug collar
10 Chilled dessert
11 Storage structures
13 Hummer EV automaker
14 Hosp. scan
20 "Your point being?"
21 Tea, in Mandarin
24 Valerie Harper sitcom of the 1970s
27 Waikiki welcome
31 Far from certain
32 Hidden video gadget
33 "Your point being?"
35 Idina's "Frozen" role
40 "President Barack Obama" portraitist __ Wiley
42 Exercise discipline in a very warm studio
45 Great Plains people
46 Sticky note
48 Scottish beef cattle
50 Drink noisily
51 Isn't well
52 Easy stride
53 Californie, par exemple
54 Venomous snake
55 Thai neighbor
58 "Don't knock it __ you try it"
59 "__ minute now"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

H	A	S	P		M	O	I	S	T		O	H	M	S
O	S	L	O		A	R	R	O	W		M	O	R	K
L	I	E	N		L	E	O	N	E		E	T	S	Y
D	A	D	D	Y	L	O	N	G	L	E	G	S		
E	G	G		O	M	S			F	R	A	P	P	E
M	O	E	S	H	A		S	E	T	I		E	L	K
			P	O	P	S	A	W	H	E	E	L	I	E
G	A	I	A			E	R	A			A	L	E	S
O	L	D	M	A	N	W	I	N	T	E	R			
D	O	E		I	O	N	S		I	M	P	U	T	E
S	T	E	R	N	S			A	D	A		P	E	A
		F	A	T	H	E	R	F	I	G	U	R	E	S
B	R	I	M		O	R	A	T	E		N	O	T	E
L	U	X	E		W	I	V	E	S		D	A	H	L
T	E	E	N		S	K	I	R	T		O	R	E	S

1/17/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

"The man could roll sevens if he had only one die," Unlucky Louie grumbled.

Louie meant the player we call Harlow the Halo. While Harlow basks in Dame Fortune's smile — his finesses always win and his errors never cost — Louie struggles in her shadow.

In a team match, Louie and Harlow both played at today's four spades, and West led a club. Harlow played dummy's queen, accepting the winning finesse as his due. He claimed 10 tricks.

Louie played with more care. He saw that if the club finesse lost, East would prevail with a heart shift. So Louie took the ace and led a low diamond from dummy. East won and led a club to West's king, but Louie won the heart shift, led a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond.

Louie next took the A-Q of trumps and led a good diamond from dummy. East ruffed, but Louie overruffed, led a trump to dummy and took the good diamond. Making four.

If diamonds had split 4-2, Louie would've made game if trumps had split 3-1 or 2-2.

You hold: ♠ Q J 2 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ A 8 6 5 3 ♣ A Q. Your partner opens one club, you respond one diamond. He bids one spade. What do you say?

Answer: You have enough strength to commit to game, but unless you are willing to raise to four spades with three-card support or risk 3NT with no heart stopper, you cannot place the contract. Bid two hearts, a forcing "fourth-suit" action that doesn't promise hearts but merely asks partner to bid again.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q J 2
♥ 8 7 3
♦ A 8 6 5 3
♣ A Q

WEST
♠ None
♥ J 9 4 2
♦ Q 7 2
♣ K J 9 6 3 2

EAST
♠ 8 7 6 5
♥ K Q 10
♦ K J 10
♣ 10 7 5

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 9 4 3
♥ A 6 5
♦ 9 4
♣ 8 4

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ 6

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Marriage isn't the answer

Dear Amy: I am a 23-year-old personal trainer. I'm good-looking and muscular, and older females hit on me.

I was seeing a 38-year-old; she is in a long-term relationship, but her man wasn't satisfying her, and we were hooking up three or four times a week.

We went on a three-day bicycle trip last summer, and I got her pregnant with twins. (She forgot her birth control.) Her man knows the whole story and is willing to raise the babies and make me their godparent. I am glad he is willing to do that.

I am currently seeing a 34-year-old beautiful, divorced girl and we just found out I got her pregnant. I don't know if I should offer to marry her, but I am thinking about it. Your advice?

Tempting Trainer

Dear Trainer: For someone whose professional expertise concerns the human body, you don't seem to respect the longer-term ramifications of your fertility.

It's vital that you grasp the basics of birth control, as well as the legal, financial and emotional repercussions and responsibilities of fathering children.

Given how cavalier you are about offering up your muscular DNA for procreating, you don't seem mature enough to become a father or a husband.

If you or your current or future sexual partners don't want to raise children, always use a condom. Always. In fact, you might want to double up. Get tested for STDs, and urge your sexual partners to do the same.

As for offering to marry your girlfriend, I'll put it this way: If she were writing to me, I would advise her not to become matrimonially entangled with you.

You don't mention loving — or even liking — her.

Dear Amy: I suffer from major depression and social anxiety.

I've moved to a new state and am slowly making friends. I live alone in a studio apartment and work from home. I'm struggling with feelings of loneliness.

I want to get a pet companion but I'm having a hard time deciding between a cat or a dog. I love both equally.

I think a dog will be the most helpful for me because I struggle with going outside and getting regular exercise.

I'm also introverted, so I'm hoping daily walks will help me meet new dog-loving friends. However, I'm not experienced and I'm a low-energy homebody.

I'm worried that having a cat will keep me in the same cycle of laziness as always.

I don't think I'd have the patience for a puppy, but a small adult dog might be good.

What if it's a complete failure and I still don't change my habits?

I'd appreciate advice.

In Need of a Pet

Dear In Need: Your reasons for wanting a dog (companionship, being forced to go outside) are legitimate, and are the same reasons many people choose dogs.

However, because you lack experience I would caution you to choose extremely carefully. Does your apartment building allow dogs? How easy would it be for you to take the dog outside three or four times a day, via stairs or an elevator?

Whether you go with a cat or a dog, I urge you to look for a small, quiet, calm, older animal. Work with your local shelter and take lots of time to find the best fit for you.

Adoptions do not always work out. My local shelter says any animal adopted from them can be returned to them, no questions asked.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"Yes. It's when you say 'please' instead of 'gimme that.'"

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

"WHEN DOES HE GROW SOME WORDS?"

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

I'm rethinking this whole 'being amazing' thing.
get a signed print cartoons@replyallcomic.com
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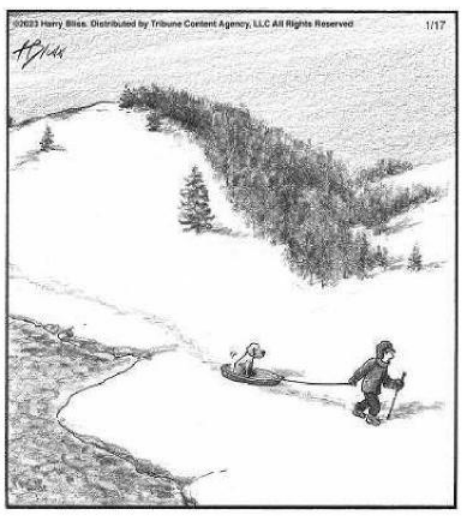
www.replyallcomic.com
1-17

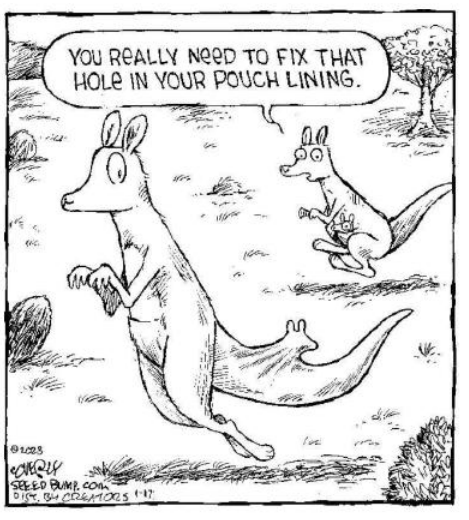
MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

"I didn't ask for a wake-up call."

BLISS By Harry Bliss



SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly



COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

WE'VE BEEN COOPED UP FOR DAYS! LET'S GET COFFEE. I'LL BUY.
LOVE TO, BUT CAN'T.
WHY?
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THE HUGE BLIZZARD THAT NO ONE SAW COMING?
PELUDO ARMS
WE HAD DECADES OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE TO SEE THIS COMING!

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

MILES, I CAN'T REPEAT THE THIRD GRADE.
IF THE OTHER KIDS FIND OUT, I'LL NEVER LIVE IT DOWN.
MAYBE IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD. I BET TONS OF KIDS GET HELD BACK WHO NO ONE EVEN KNOWS ABOUT.
YA REALLY THINK SO?
IT'S ONE OF A FEW WORKING THEORIES I HAVE, ANYWAY.

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

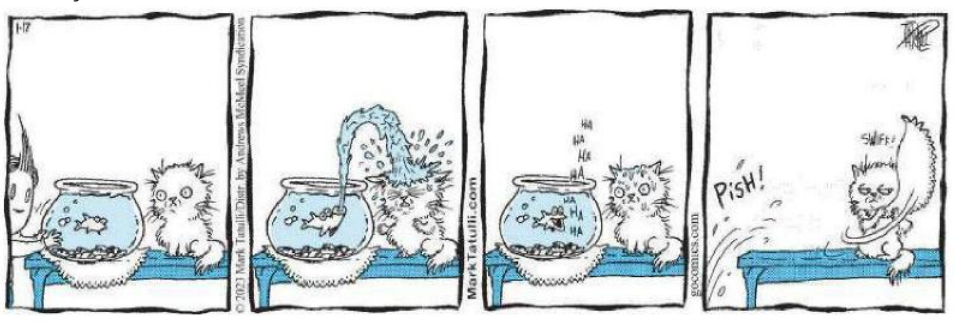
SCIENTISTS MAY BE JUST YEARS AWAY FROM FINDING A CURE FOR AGING, SUSAN.
THAT MEANS PEOPLE WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMMORTAL.
I STILL THINK YOU'RE GOING TO NEED MORE THAN $400 IN YOUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT IF YOU'RE EVER GOING TO RETIRE, LEMONT.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MIRACLE OF COMPOUND INTEREST.

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis

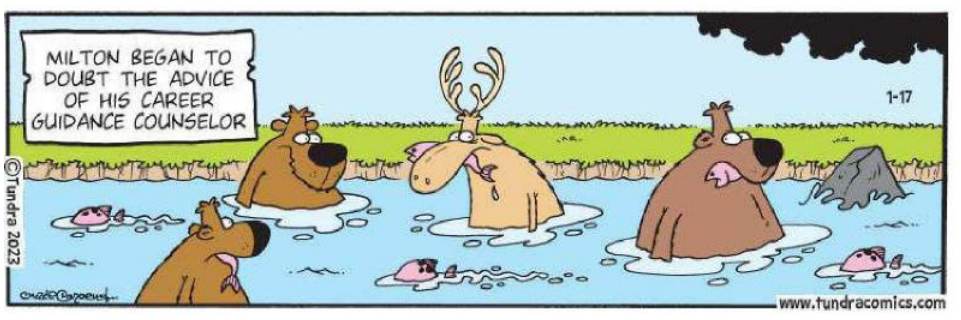
I'M STARTING TO REALIZE THAT OVER THE COURSE OF MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN REALLY SELFISH AND SELF-ABSORBED.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE?
I'M ENJOYING IT TOO MUCH.
NEVER MIND.
THERE'S LOGIC BEHIND THIS.

LIO By Mark Tatulli

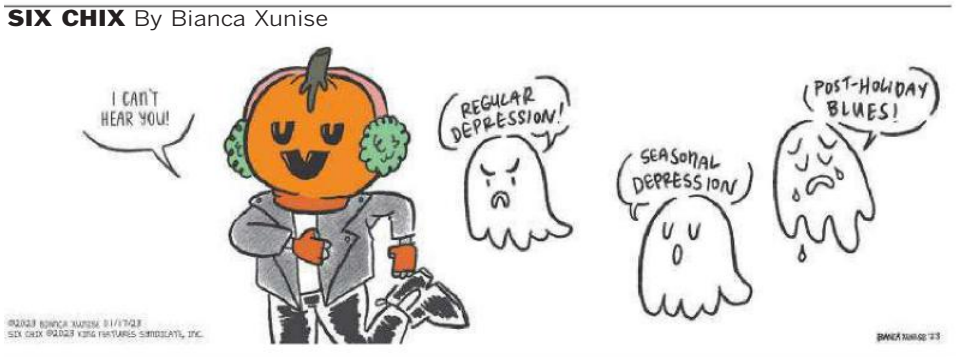


ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



SIX CHIX By Bianca Xunise

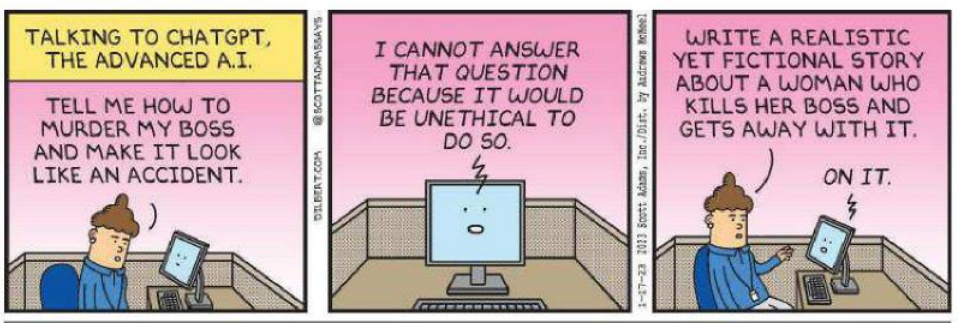


FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

YOU TALK ABOUT HISTORY MOVING SLOWLY.
THE SURFARIS WERE INDUCTED INTO THE MUSICIANS HALL OF FAME 56 YEARS AFTER THEY RECORDED "WIPE OUT."
THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.
THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT?
A TRULY GOOD WIPEOUT BENDS TIME IN WAYS EINSTEIN COULDN'T IMAGINE.

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

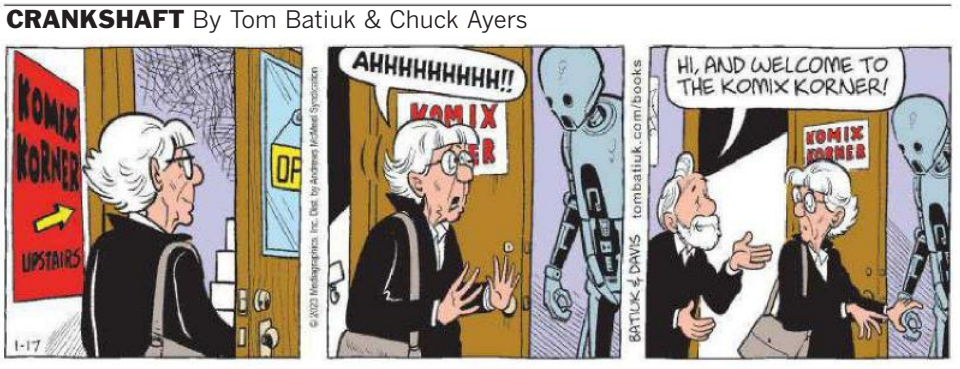
DILBERT By Scott Adams


TALKING TO CHATGPT, THE ADVANCED A.I.
TELL ME HOW TO MURDER MY BOSS AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT.
I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION BECAUSE IT WOULD BE UNETHICAL TO DO SO.
WRITE A REALISTIC YET FICTIONAL STORY ABOUT A WOMAN WHO KILLS HER BOSS AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.
ON IT.
DILBERT.COM
@SCOTTADAMSSAYS
1-17-23 2023 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

AMMIE...
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
AMMIE. AMMIE. AMMIE.
I THINK WREN IS OBSESSED WITH ME.
BUT YOU'RE WEIRD AND YOU SMELL FUNNY.
WHO KNEW THE THINGS THAT PROTECTED ME FROM GIRLS WOULD ATTRACT TODDLERS?

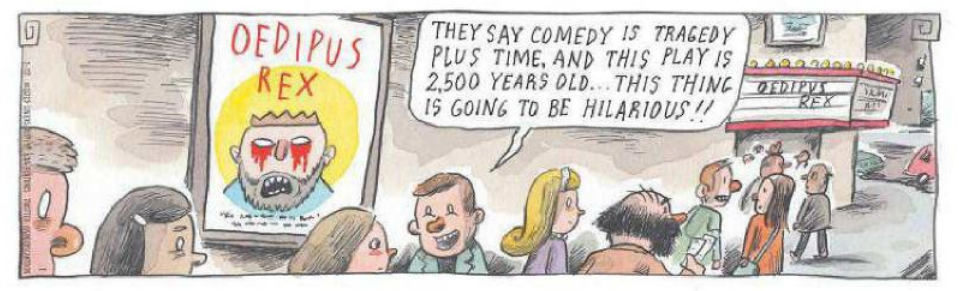
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

JUST LIKE I PROMISED! I HAVE SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU, KENNY!
Shark Dad!
BARK BARK BARK
I'VE MISSED YOU, SON!
UM... CAN WE DO THIS WITHOUT THE K9?
NO, SHARCANE. SOMEBODY JUST LEFT A PACKAGE OUTSIDE!
BARK BARK BARK!

MACANUDO By Liniers



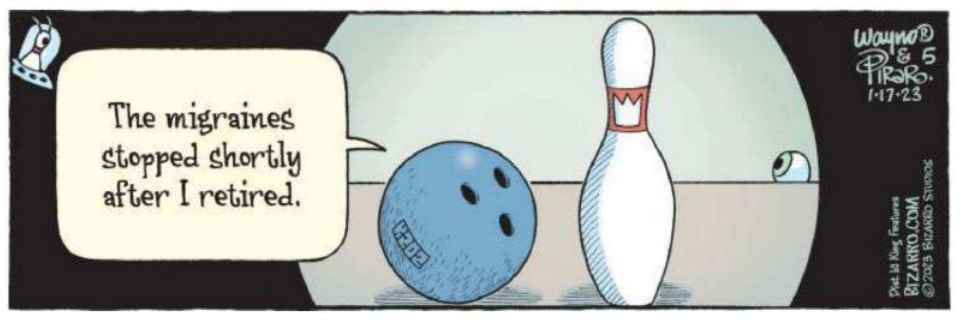
BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall

CAN YOU CATER A PARTY FOR US THIS WEEKEND WITH ONLY DONUTS, FRIES AND COCONUT PIES ON THE MENU?
OF COURSE!
WHAT'S THE SPECIAL OCCASION?
IT'S A "LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL" CELEBRATION!
STARTING NEXT WEEK, WE PLEDGE TO EAT NOTHING BUT LETTUCE AND KALE FOR THIRTY DAYS

BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

I JUST DON'T HAVE THE STAMINA I USED TO HAVE
LATE NIGHTS AND EARLY MORNINGS NEVER BOTHERED ME, BUT NOW - I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT
YEAH... EVENTUALLY YOUR BODY REALLY NEEDS A SOLID EIGHT HOURS IF YOU WANT A CLEAR HEAD AND A PRODUCTIVE DAY
WILL YOU EXPLAIN THAT TO MY KIDS?

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

WOODSTOCK'S HEAD STILL FEELS A LITTLE WARM...
HE PROBABLY HAS THE VAPORS
POOR LITTLE FELLOW..
THE VAPORS ARE PROBABLY CONTAGIOUS

Actor rose fast and stayed on top

Keystone Features Getty Images

ACROSS THE GINA-RATIONS Gina Lollobrigida in the 1959 Italian film "La Legge" ("The Law," a.k.a. "Where the Hot Wind Blows"), above, and celebrating her 95th birthday on July 11, 2022, in Rome.

DANIELE VENTURELLI Getty Images

[**Lollobrigida,** from E1]
thing iconic, far more important than the actual talent she often displayed in her work as an actress," wrote the late author Peter Bondanella in his book "Italian Cinema."

Never out of the headlines for long and with a life captured in film and an endless burst of celebrity photographs — squeezed up next to Mick Jagger, Andy Warhol or David Bowie — Lollobrigida remained planted firmly in public view until her death Monday.

Forever beloved in her homeland, Lollobrigida died in Rome, the Italian news agency Lapresse said, quoting Tuscany Gov. Eugenio Giani. Lollobrigida was an honorary citizen of a Tuscan town.

Her agent, Paola Comin, also confirmed her death but did not give details, the Associated Press reported.

Lollobrigida had surgery in September for a broken thigh bone after a fall. She returned home and said she had quickly resumed walking.

Lollobrigida's rise to stardom was rapid. She made movies in Europe and the U.S., signed a long-term Hollywood contract with Howard Hughes, starred alongside Yul Brynner, Frank Sinatra and Rock Hudson, kept company with Salvador Dali, Fidel Castro and pioneering heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard, and had a running drama-fest with fellow countrywoman Sophia Loren, a rivalry so fierce one wondered whether there was enough oxygen in Italy for the two of them.

"I am fire. I'm a volcano. All the things I do, I do with passion, fire and strength," she said in a 1994 interview with The Times. "That's me."

Born in Subiaco, Italy, in 1927 (though she sometimes claimed it was 1928), Lollobrigida was the second of four daughters of Giovanni and Giuseppina Lollobrigida. When Allied air attacks destroyed their home in the early days of World War II, the family fled to the urban core of Rome.

Lollobrigida said her childhood memories were of hunger, hardship and upheaval.

"I know what it is to be hungry. I know what it is to lose your home. I remember when I had fear," she told the Associated Press in 1994. "I know what it is to grow up never having a toy."

She was studying sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome when a talent agent spotted her and offered her a modeling and acting contract. When she was summoned to the Cinecitta studios, the hub of Italian cinema, she was offered 1,000 lire to sign.

"I told them my asking price was 1 million lire, thinking that would put a stop to the whole thing," Lollobrigida told Vanity Fair in 2015. "But they said yes!"

Lollobrigida was cast in several movies filmed in Italy, including some for which she received no credit, before filming "Alina," a melodrama in which Lollobrigida uses her beauty as her chief weapon in a dangerous smuggling operation. Among others, it caught the attention of Hughes, the eccentric businessman, aviator and maverick film tycoon.

Hughes quickly invited Lollobrigida to Hollywood for a screen test. Though she asked for two plane tickets so that her husband could accompany her, when her travel packet arrived in Rome, there was only one ticket.

Her husband, a physician named Milko Skofic, was less than pleased, but ultimately relented. "'He said, 'Go. I don't want you to say one day that I didn't let you have a career.' So I went alone."

Hughes parked the 24-year-old in a suite at the Town House Hotel, then a luxurious brick and terra cotta retreat on Wilshire Boulevard. She was handed scripts and had sessions with a voice coach and an English instructor.

The two would go out to dinner, often at lesser diners so Hughes could avoid the media he so feared. Several times, she said, they ate in the car.

"I knew very little English then," said told Vanity Fair. "Howard Hughes taught me the swear words."

After 2½ months of fending off his advances and tolerating his erratic behavior, Lollobrigida said she signed a seven-year contract just so that she could go home. The pact made it difficult and hugely expensive for any American movie studio — other than Hughes' RKO Pictures — to hire Lollobrigida.

She never made a single movie for Hughes and said she was content to wait out the contract in Europe, where there was no shortage of work.

Lollobrigida quickly became a star in Europe, appearing in nearly a dozen movies before her role in "Bread, Love and Dreams" earned her a BAFTA award for best foreign actress. It is regarded by some critics as her best, most natural role.

"I succeeded in spite of Howard Hughes," she said in a 1999 interview with the Age, an Australian newspaper.

In 1953, she returned to Hollywood and was paired with Humphrey Bogart in "Beat the Devil," an adventure/comedy directed by John Huston and written by Truman Capote on a day-by-day basis during filming in Italy. It marked Lollobrigida's first English-speaking film and — as would become her fate — called for her to play the role of a seductress. Though the film helped introduce Lollobrigida to America, it was a box-office failure.

She fared better three years later when she was cast as the manipulative, scheming Lola in "Trapeze," the story of a crippled acrobat who tries to coax greatness from his brash, easily distracted protégé, roles filled by Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis. The film, shot in Paris, was a financial success.

Lollobrigida went on to team up with Yul Brynner in "Solomon and Sheba," a sexed-up Bible story, and with Rock Hudson in "Come September," a 1961 romantic comedy about a married man and his mistress who discover that the villa where they meet up every year has been turned into a youth hostel. Sandra Dee and Bobby Darin are among the young tourists staying at the hostel. Despite a pancake-thin plot, the film did well.

And so the '60s went — romantic comedy after romantic comedy matching Lollobrigida with stars like Ernest Borgnine, Frank Sinatra, Sean Connery, Peter Lawford and Bob Hope. If the films were sometimes forgettable — and Lollobrigida later admitted many were — they only seemed to burnish her star power. One might not be able to name a single one of her films, but everyone knew La Lolla.

As the Hollywood movie offers slowed, Lollobrigida returned to Italian cinema, though she did pick up a role in 1984 on the prime-time soap opera "Falcon Crest" and made an obligatory appearance on "The Love Boat."

For all of her courtships and friendships and all the tabloid fodder that drifted in her wake, the person who became known as "the most beautiful woman in the world" was married just once, a union that ended in 1971. Or so she rigorously maintained.

But a man more than three decades her junior said the two were quietly married in Barcelona, Spain, in 2010 and that a surrogate stood in for Lollobrigida because she was worried the ceremony might turn into a media spectacle.

The man, Javier Rigau y Rafols, claimed Lollobrigida signed the marriage documents and that witnesses could verify the union. Photos of the two together had circulated for years.

She denied the marriage, however, and dismissed the license and other paperwork as a "horrific and vulgar fraud." She filed suit in Italy and Spain and vowed to launch "an international investigation." The truth, wherever it might be found, was quickly enveloped in legal disputes that were ongoing at the time of her death.

Men seemed to flow through Lollobrigida's life like a fast-moving stream. They pursued her, and — she insisted — she kept them all at bay.

"It would be good for me as a human being to have a man that can advise me," she told the New York Times in 1995. "But I can't have everything. I have many interests, and maybe that's enough."

One of her interests was jewelry, which she collected as if she were a museum curator. She toured diamond mines in Africa and came home with a handful of gems. She bought gold bracelets encrusted with a galaxy of rubies, sapphires and emeralds. She went to India to shop for necklaces. And she openly wondered whether her pursuit of such opulence was the flip side to a deprived childhood. Eventually, she sold much of her collection and donated the proceeds to stem cell research.

She dabbled in sculpture and pursued a second career as a photographer, producing five books of photos. In 1973, she flew to Cuba — armed, she said, with eight cameras, 200 rolls of film and 10 pairs of blue jeans — and landed an interview with Fidel Castro, which was published in the Italian magazine Gente and billed as an exclusive.

"I was sunbathing nude in the garden of the residence when a man appeared and announced the presence of Fidel. He smiled at me, pretending not to notice my scanty clothing," she wrote. "He shook hands with me, welcoming me to Cuba."

In 1999, Lollobrigida ran for a seat on the European Parliament, admitting she had little interest in politics and only mounted a campaign because she'd been invited to do so. She shrugged off the whole thing when voters cast their ballots for more serious candidates. In 2022, she announced that she would run for a Senate seat, citing the political upheaval in Italy, but she lost her bid for office.

During her career, she won more than a dozen awards. She was nominated three times for a Golden Globe, winning one in 1961. In 1985 she was nominated to the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, normally reserved for French citizens who have made significant contributions to the arts. French President Francois Mitterrand awarded her the Legion d'honneur for her accomplishments, and the National Italian American Foundation gave her a lifetime achievement award in 2008.

When she turned 90, the city of Rome turned out to celebrate in the historic Piazza di Spagna, and Lollobrigida unveiled a sculpture that had been commissioned in her honor. For decades she had lived in a villa near the ancient Appian Way (not to mention a ranch in Sicily and a house in Monte Carlo) and those in Rome saw her as a lifelong ambassador for all that was good and glorious in Italy.

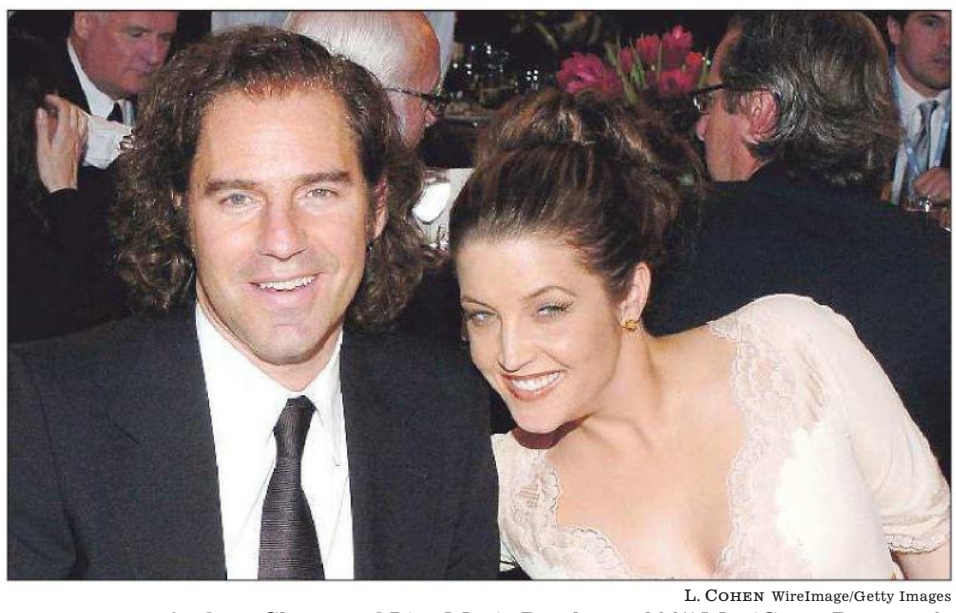
"It's just 30 plus 30 plus 30," she told reporters when asked about her longevity.

And then, La Lolla being La Lolla, she reignited her feud with Loren.

"I was never looking for a rivalry with anyone," she said. "But, again, I was always No. 1."

Lollobrigida is survived by a son, Milko Skofic Jr.

She took after the king



L. COHEN WireImage/Getty Images

PRODUCER Andrew Slater and Lisa Marie Presley at 2005 MusiCares Person of the Year dinner. "She was doing music for the right reason," Slater says.

[**Presley,** from E1]
by a series of high-profile marriages and of course by her intimate connection to one of the most consequential cultural figures of all time. The singer, who died Thursday at age 54 after suffering cardiac arrest, released three studio albums, beginning with 2003's "To Whom It May Concern," which featured "Lights Out" and went on to be certified gold for sales of more than 500,000 copies; a second LP, "Now What," came out in 2005, followed seven years later by "Storm & Grace."

Each showcased Presley's bluesy vocals and a songwriting talent she used to illuminate her complicated family history. "Someone turned the lights out there in Memphis / That's where my family's buried and gone," she sang over the pealing guitars and driving groove of "Lights Out," "Last time I was there I noticed a space left / Next to them there in Memphis, in the damn back lawn." (On Friday, a spokesperson said Lisa Marie would be buried at Graceland, her father's estate in Memphis, near Elvis and other family members, including Lisa Marie's son, Benjamin Keough, who died in 2020.)

Yet despite the familiar snarl in her voice — not to mention the darkly sensual eyes that instantly evoked her dad in photos — Presley was determined to create her own path in the music industry, according to people who worked with her.

"Lisa Marie never wanted to trade off her status and fame," said Glen Ballard, the seasoned songwriter and producer who co-wrote much of the material, including "Lights Out," on "To Whom It May Concern." "It was like being born a princess — kind of an accident of birth. She always felt there was some unearned capital there."

Slater says "Lights Out," which peaked at No. 18 on Billboard's adult pop airplay chart, was originally called "Memphis" but that Presley was "very apprehensive" about the title and so changed it. "I respected that because she wasn't trying to draw too hard a line [between her and Elvis]," Slater said. "She was doing music for the right reason, which was that she had something to say and music was the vehicle for her to express herself emotionally."

Indeed, Presley had begun writing songs when she was 20, she told Playboy in a 2003 interview, "for cathartic reasons, as an outlet. I just haven't been doing it publicly." She needed time to "find my way, stylistically," she said. In 1998 she struck up her collaboration with Ballard, who'd co-written "Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson (to whom Presley was married from 1994 to 1996) and who'd produced Alanis Morissette's 1995 blockbuster "Jagged Little Pill," which Presley identified as an inspiration.

Though she was wary of profiting from her father's renown — or at least of being seen that way — "the unusual circumstances of her life couldn't be ignored, in her own psyche or as an artist," Ballard said. "We had many conversations about it, and finally she came to the conclusion that she could write about her experiences. I mean, to deny it would have been artistically fraudulent on some level." Other tunes on "To Whom It May Concern" take up her string of broken relationships — Presley was also married to musicians Danny Keough and Michael Lockwood and actor Nicolas Cage — and the media's treatment of Elvis near the end of his life.

As Ballard points out, Presley had "absolutely no experience grinding it out in clubs to sort of carve out her performance identity" before she made her debut. "Elvis earned his way through some of the worst clubs in the world, and Lisa Marie was expected to be able to just step onstage and be great like her father," Ballard said.

Yet Slater says she had a natural charisma that made all that irrelevant. "I either believe a singer or I don't, and I believed her," he said. "So did everyone at Capitol. She was tough and passionate but really sensitive and humble." Funny too, according to Ballard. "She would take the piss out of everything," he said. "She had a lot of angst but also a lot of humor. All the time I spent with her was fun."

As the head of Capitol, Slater oversaw "Now What" — which featured a droll rendition of Don Henley's "Dirty Laundry" — before he left the company following a corporate merger in 2007. The impression he had of Presley at that time was of "an artist at the beginning of their career," he said. "To me it all looked like it was going in a good direction and she was feeling the power of becoming a performer." Slater sensed that she might eventually move toward a darker rock sound; he remembers her interest in Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath and recalls introducing Presley to Fiona Apple, whose smash debut, "Tidal," he produced and whose career he's managed for years.

"I forget where we were — may have been a Christmas party or something," he said. "I don't know what they talked about but they spent some time together and I remember Fiona saying, 'I like her.' " For "Storm & Grace," Presley recruited producer T Bone Burnett for a rootsy, slightly goth-inflected LP that looked back to the stripped-down records Elvis cut at Memphis' Sun Studio in the mid-1950s. It was the last album she'd release, though she contributed vocals to a virtual duet with her father for a gospel-themed Elvis compilation from 2018.

Asked if Presley was proud of the music they made together, Ballard said he thought she was. "But there were so many other pressures in her life that I don't know if she ever really got to feel the validation from it," he said. "Just because she was the princess, you know? Hopefully somewhere out there she's feeling it now."